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Newsletter 40

"The glory of creation is in its infinite diversity and the way our differences combine to create meaning and beauty."

Honorary Members: Gene Roddenberry, Majel Barrett, Jonathan del Arco, Richard Arnold, James Doohan, Michael Dorn, Siddig El Fadil, Robert Tostman, Walter Koenig, John de Lancie & Marnie Mosiman, Mark Lenard, Michael Okuda, Ernie Over, Nichelle Nichols, Susan Sackett, Marina Sirtis, Patrick Stewart, Rick Sternbach, George Takei, Guy Vardaman, Rupert Evans, Lorraine Kelly, Anne Page, Rick Parfitt, Bjo Trimble.

Hi. Welcome to another newsletter.

With putting this newsletter out a bit early we seem to have caught some of you on the hop this time - submissions are definitely down. The postal problems in Scotland this past week probably haven't helped. Sorry to any of you who have missed the deadline. At least this time we haven't got to do a hatchet job on the postbag and we've printed two or three letters that are longer than the usual maximum length..

If you have sent in a postbag submission which has missed the deadline we will print it next time but only if you don't send in a new one. To fit in as many letters as possible we do need to have a maximum limit of 500-550 words per member.

SUBSCRIPTION INCREASE

We have very reluctantly decided that we need to increase dues this coming August. We are facing a large increase in printing costs due to an increase in paper prices and this added to various other recent price increases means that we just can't continue to

put out a 100 pages newsletter on present income.

We are also introducing a 50p surcharge on credit card payments. More and more members are paying by credit card and we lose an average 50p on each membership.

The new subscription rates will be: UK £9.00, Europe £11.00, USA £15.00 (\$25.00); Australia £16.00 and will come into effect on August 1st. Anyone wanting to renew in advance at current rates may do so. The credit card surcharge will also come into effect for renewals from August 1st but we would appreciate anyone willing to pay it in advance. A charge of 5p per £1 (or part of £1) will also have to be made on credit card payments for zines.

INTERNET - IMPORTANT

Janet recently posted a TNG zine advert on rec.arts.startrek.misc and .fandom for a US member who didn't have Internet access. She had seen people selling items on the newsgroups and didn't think there would be a problem. Unfortunately the member got a

nasty shock when he received a letter from Paramount threatening to sue him for copyright infringement if he did not immediately co-operate with them. We are not sure what is happening here as we've never heard of Paramount objecting to fanzines. Also they had Janet's email address but contacted the member direct - we wonder if this is because Janet is in the UK and he is in the US. Also, the Usenet is a fairly friendly and informative place but no one contacted Janet saying that it is not advisable to advertise fanzines. Janet was going to post a message onto the newsgroups to enquire whether this has happened before but on second thoughts we've decided it is best not to risk inflaming the situation. Our advice to members with Internet access is be careful what you you say - the Paramount sharks are listening.

Janet apologies to the member concerned but she is a novice at comms and there is just no way she could have anticipated this happening.

HOLIDAYS

We mentioned in the last newsletter that we were going to Wales for a couple weeks after Sol III. Unfortunately something has come up and Janet can't get away so we've had to postpone that trip. We are very disappointed as we were looking forward to staying with Jackie and the dogs. We hope it won't be too long until we can get down.

Sheila and Valerie will be away for two weeks so please allow them a time to catch up with things after they get home. Their houses are occupied so you needn't delay sending mail.

We hope to see some of you at Sol III and at Conundrum. Come to the table and say hello.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

The closing date for the next newsletter is July 5th.

PLEASE put your full name on all submissions - if you don't and it gets separated from your letter then we can't print it.

Our order of preference for receiving newsletter submissions is:

Email - send to Janet and she will try to confirm receipt within 2 weeks.

(Email - janet.quarton@almac.co.uk)

(Fidonet. - Janet Quarton @ 2:297/17)

Computer disc - send to Janet. (ASCII text files on MS-DOS, Atari ST, Acorn or Amstrad PCW - SAE to Janet for details)

By letter or fax - send written postbag submissions, articles and reviews to Sheila (address on back page). Send news, cuttings, adverts and anything else to Janet.

Our thanks to Audrey Anderson, Barbara Ellams, Peter Fryer, George Haggarty, Valerie Herd, Shirley Malewski, Fiona McDonald, Nigel Nixon, Harminder Pal, Gloria Rigg, Alan Stephen, Joan Verba, Mary von Heide, Jackie Wells, Edward Woo and anyone we have inadvertently forgotten to mention, for sending information and/or cuttings.

IDIC GUIDE DOG APPEAL

Well, Darcy has qualified and is now a fully paid-up Guide Dog in good standing with his union. This means that as of now we no longer have a dog in training, so there won't be any more guide dog news for a while (apart from the stamps) - we're not even half-way to funding our next dog.

USED STAMPS

Any American/Canadian members who would like to contribute used stamps can send them to Bill Hupe, 916 Lamb Rd, Mason, MI 48854-9554, USA and he will forward them to us along with a list of your names so that we can acknowledge them.

We would like to thank Elizabeth Barrie, Beverlyphiles, Jennifer Blanchard, Julie Burton, David Butler, Catherine Carr, Susan Clarke, Helen Counsell, Cassie Davies, Miss E D Davies, Charlotte Davis, Matthew Deegan, Pauline Devonald, Julie Evans, Michael Farquhar, Clare Finkel, Fiona Fletcher, Anne-Marie Flowers, Gary James Foggo, Mark French, Vered Gilad, David

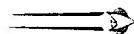
Hall, Mike Hazlewood, Valerie Herd, Glyn Holland, Irena Hradecka, Sandra Hunger, Bill Hupe, Nanaki Kaur, Carol Kean, Provincial Insurance Kendal, Nicola Markham-Randall, Helen McGinty - Melfort Village, John & Tanya Milton, Nigel Nixon, Maureen Norton, Barry O'Doherty, Mark Payne, Mrs J. Perrin, Lesley Richardson, Sarah Rooke, Allison Rooney, Hilary Ryan, Neil Safi, Carla Salveta, Baerbel Schmidt, Shirley Shatner, Margaret Sibbald, Jean Sloan, Alexis Stokes, Emma Sung, Helen Thompson, Helen Thurlow, Rachel Timms, Jenny Turner, Andrew Walford, Linda Ware, Daniel van de Weile, Edward Woo, Ann Lindsay Wright, Waltraud Zucha-Glass and anyone we have inadvertently forgotten to mention, for

donations of money, collectibles, and/or used stamps for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. Special thanks to Cinzia Iezzi for sending a carrier bag full of trimmed stamps from Italy. We'd also like to thank Allison Rooney for trimming stamps for us.

We can use all used stamps, whether British or Foreign. If possible please trim them, leaving 1/4" of envelope around the stamp.

We plan to post the next newsletter out around July 26th.

Janet, Sheila, Valerie 7/5/95



LATEST STAR TREK NEWS



compiled by Janet Quarton

TV & SATELLITE

• DS9 finishes it's repeat weekday run on May 12th with Tribunal. It is replaced by Quantum Leap. This only leaves 3rd season DS9 showing on Sky One on Sundays and 5th/6th season TNG showing on BBC2 on Wednesdays.

Voyager is due to start screening on Sky One in October.

BBC - ST:TNG screening dates.

Ep.	Title	Date Shown
214	Conundrum	22/3/95
215	Power Play	29/3/95 Eng 5/4/95 Scot
216	Ethics	5/4/95 Eng 12/4/95 Scot
217	The Outcast	12/4/95 Eng 13/4/95 Scot
218	Cause and Effect	19/4/95
219	The First Duty	26/4/95
220	Cost of Living	3/5/95
221	The Perfect Mate	10/5/95

STAR TREK 7

• Rick Berman signed to write new Trek film. Paramount Pictures has entered into an agreement for Rick Berman to produce and co-write the next "Star Trek" film, with principal photography projected to begin in 1996.

STAR TREK VOYAGER

• Star Trek Voyager has been renewed for a second season. The first season will have 22 episodes. All the Voyager cast have signed 3 year contracts.

• Look for Tuvok's rank pips to finally be corrected before the season is out. Also at the same time, Paris will also lose a step and be seen with Lieutenant Junior Grade pips. According to Robert Duncan McNeill, this change will just "happen" and not be a point of discussion in an episode.

• Voyager has a crew of approx. 141. This is from Dave Rossi at Star Expo convention.

Star Trek: Voyager.
Season 1 Broadcast Schedule.

Date = Date of satellite uplink.

Episode List-

Date	Title
10/4/95	111 State of Flux
24/4/95	112 Heros & Demons
1/5/95	113 Cathexis
8/5/95	114 Faces
15/5/95	115 Jetrel
22/5/95	116 Learning Curve

Spoilers

111 State of Flux - Directed by Robert Scheerer; Story by Paul Robert Coyle; Teleplay by Chris Abbott. Guest starring: Martha Hackett as Seska, Josh Clark as Carey, Anthony DeLongis as Kazon dude.

While on a routine exploration of a new planet, Voyager responds to the distress calls of a Kazon warship. Upon investigation, they find the Kazon ship hobbled by an accident caused by Federation technology...a clear signal that Voyager may be carrying a traitor.

112 Heroes and Demons - Directed by Les Landau; Written by Naren Shankar. Guest stars: Marjorie Monaghan as Freya, Christopher Neame as Unferth, Michael Keenan as Hrothgar.

The Ship's Holographic Doctor must overcome his computer programmed limitations when the ship's Holodeck is taken over by an alien lifeform that transforms living crew members into pure energy. As the only Voyager member able to face this alien being, the Doctor must explore the limits of his programmed behavior and reach beyond them to save the crew from a fate worse than death.

113 Cathexis - Directed by Kim Friedman; Story by Brannon Braga & Joe Menosky; Teleplay by Brannon Braga. Guest stars - Brian Markinson as Durst, Michael Cumpsty as Lord Burleigh, Carolyn Seymour as Mrs. Templeton.

Both Tuvok and Chakotay return from a routine expedition injured - Tuvok with

minor ailments and Chakotay grievously injured. It seems that during an encounter with a black nebula, all of Chakotay's neural energy was depleted and unless it is returned in the near future, Chakotay may be doomed to a life as a brain-dead host.

While trying to return to the nebula, the crew of Voyager discovers that there is an alien presence aboard that can control their efforts. As the ship nears the nebula, Janeway discovers that the alien has taken over Tuvok. All seems lost as he takes command of the ship and they enter the nebula, until the spirit of Chakotay, which had been trying to help all along, takes more drastic measures and saves the lives of the Voyager crew.

114 Faces - Directed by Rick Kolbe; Story by Jonathan Glassner and Adam Grossman; Teleplay by Kenneth Biller. Guest stars - Brian Markinson as both Sulan and Durst, Rob LaBelle as Talaxian prisoner, Barton Tinapp as Guard #1.

B'Elanna Torres and Lt. Tom Paris are abducted by the Alien race who suffer from the Phage. During an experiment, B'Elanna is literally split into two separate beings - one fully Klingon, the other fully human - by Sulan, a Talaxian scientist in search of a cure for the deadly disease. Her two selves must learn to work together in order to escape the alien laboratory and rescue Lt. Paris.

When one of her personas is killed in the escape, B'Elanna is faced with the toughest decision of her life- to try and recapture her dual nature through advanced scientific technology, or to continue on as a completely singular being.

115 Jetrel - Directed by Kim Friedman; Story by Scott Nimerfro & Jim Thomson; Teleplay by Jack Klein & Karen Klein and Kenneth Biller. James Sloyan as Ma'bör Jetrel, Larry Hankin as Gaunt Gary.

Neelix is confronted by the Haakonian scientist named Ma'bör Jetrel, the man responsible for creating the Metreon Cascade, a device that was used to annihilate a major portion of the Talaxian race, including Neelix' own family.

Jetrel is allowed to board Voyager when he asserts that Neelix will soon fall ill from long term affects of the Metreon Cascade device. Tempers flare between the

two, with Neelix instantly distrusting the man who murdered his loved ones. Ultimately, Neelix must discover Jetrel's true motive for being on board Voyager, before it is too late.

James Sloyan, who plays Jetrel also played as Dr. Mora (Odo's "father") in "The Alternate", as well as Admiral Jarok, and "old" Alexander.

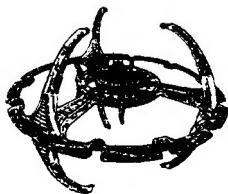
116 - Learning Curve - Directed by David Livingston; written by Ronald Wilkerson & Jean Louise Matthias and Jeri Taylor. Guest starring: Armand Schultz as Dalby, Derek McGrath as Chell, Kenny Morrison as Geron, Catherine MacNeal as Henley, Thomas Alexander Dekker as Henry, Lindsey Haun as Beatrice.

When several former Maquis crew members break Federation rules, it is up to Tuvok to train them in the finer points of Star Fleet protocol and discipline in order to reestablish harmony among Voyager's crew.

Simultaneously, a strange virus invades the Ship's bio-neural circuitry, endangering the lives of all aboard. As B'Elanna Torres and The Doctor try to discover a cure, Tuvok and his unlikely "cadets" become trapped in an unstable part of the ship. As one of them lies near death, Star Fleet tenets are put to the test.

Projections - Jonathan Frakes directs this episode which focuses on the Doctor. Supposedly, this is the episode in which the Doctor finally gets a name, and he is seen roaming through different parts of the ship - not just sickbay and the holodeck. And it features a guest appearance by Dwight Schulz as Lt. Reginald Barclay!

Eloguin - Kes will be going into puberty and Neelix and Kes would bond then. Females of her race go into a 48 hour bonding period. This is the only time her race can have children. More would be revealed about her 8 year life span.



STAR TREK

DEEP SPACE NINE

• As from The Die Is Cast, episodes 467, Michael Piller is listed in the credits as Creative Consultant and not Executive Producer. This may because he is co-creator and co-Executive Producer on UPN's new show, Legend.

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine.
Season 3 Broadcast Schedule.

Date = Date of satellite uplink.

Episode List-

Date	Episode & Title
08/4/95	464 Distant Voices
15/4/95	466 Through the Looking Glass
22/4/95	465 Improbable Cause [Part 1 of the arc]
29/4/95	467 The Die Is Cast [Part 2 of the arc]
06/5/95	468 Explorers
13/5/95	469 Family Business
20/5/95	470 Shakaar
10/6/95	471 Facets
17/6/95	472 The Adversary (Season Finale)

EPISODE SPOILERS

464 Distant Voices - Directed by Alexander Singer; Teleplay Bylra Steven Behr & Robert Hewitt Wolfe; Story by Joe Menosky. Guest stars - Andrew Robinson as Garak, Victor Rivers as Altovar, Ann Gillespie as nurse.

Comatose and dying after an alien attack, Bashir must access different parts of his personality, which take the form of crew members, to save his life.

465 Improbable Cause - Directed by Avery Brooks; Teleplay by Rene Echevarria; Story by Robert Lederman & David R. Long. Guests - Andrew Robinson as Garak, Carlos LaCamara as Retaya, Joseph Ruskin as Informant, Darwyn Carson as Romulan, Julianna McCarthy as Mila, Paul Dooley as

Enabran Tain.

Garak's shop mysteriously explodes, launching Odo on an investigation to determine who is trying to kill the Cardassian exile – and why.

466 Through the Looking Glass - Directed by Winrich Kolbe; Written by Ira Steven Behr & Robert Hewitt Wolfe. Guest stars: Andrew Robinson as Garak, Felicia Bell as Jennifer Sisko, Max Grodenchik as Rom, Tim Russ as Tuvok.

In a parallel universe, Sisko must assume the role of his dead counterpart in order to save the mirror version of his late wife.

467 The Die Is Cast - Directed by David Livingston; Written by Ronald D. Moore. Guest stars - Andrew Robinson as Garak, Leland Orser as Lovok, Kenneth Marshall as Eddington, Leon Russom as Toddman, Paul Dooley as Enabran Tain.

On the eve of a Romulan/Cardassian attack against the Dominion, Garak may have to prove his loyalty to his former mentor by eliminating Odo.

468 Explorers - Directed by Cliff Bole; Teleplay by Rene Echevarria; Story by Hilary J. Bader. Guest Stars - Marc Alaimo as Gul Dukat, Bari Hochwald as Dr. Elizabeth Lense, Chase Masterson as Leeta.

Sisko builds a new version of an ancient Bajoran space vessel in an effort to prove the truth behind an 800-year-old legend.

469 Family Business - Directed by Rene Auberjonois; Written by Ira Steven Behr & Robert Hewitt Wolfe. Guest Stars - Penny Johnson as Kasidy Yates, Max Grodenchik as Rom, Jeffrey Combs as Brunt. Special Guest Star Andrea Martin as Ishka.

Quark returns to his home planet to confront his mother, who has broken the Ferengi law prohibiting females from earning a profit.

470 Shakaar - Directed by Jonathan West; Written by Gordon Dawson. Guest Stars: Duncan Regehr as Shakaar, Diane Salinger as Lupaza, William Lucking as Furel, Sherman Howard as Syvar, John Doman as

Lenaris. Special Guest Star Louise Fletcher as Kai Winn.

Sent to Bajor on a mission against her former leader in the resistance movement, Kira ends up joining him as a fugitive.

471 Facets - Directed by Cliff Bole; Written by Rene Echevarria. Guest Stars - Jeffrey Alan Chandler as Guardian, Max Grodenchik as Rom, Aron Eisenberg as Nog, Chase Masterson as Leeta.

Jadzia Dax must come to terms with her feelings of inferiority when she meets her past hosts in an ancient Trill rite of closure. Dax's former self borrows Odo's body. There's just one problem – he won't give it back!

MISC

- On Sunday evening April 23rd, Trek cast members Robert Duncan McNeil, (Orlando), Kate Mulgrew (Rosalind), Armin Shimmerman (Touchstone), Max Grodenchik (Silvius) and Rosalind Chao (Celia) took part in a benefit reading for Shakespeare Festival/LA's celebrity reading at Paramount. The reading raises money for the summer Shakespeare Festival/Los Angeles, which provides free professional theater and poverty youth outreach programs.

- Star Trek Generations has been nominated for Best Science Fiction Film for this year's 21st Saturn Awards. Other nominees are "Stargate", "Street Fighter", "Timecop", "The Puppet Masters", "No Escape", and "Body Snatchers".

- Star Trek: The Experience is Paramount/Viacom's first development of such an attraction outside its theme park operation. It is also the first time a Hollywood property of this caliber has been brought to life in Las Vegas.

Here's how a fact sheet for "Star Trek: The Experience," as the attraction is known describes what each visitor will encounter: Entering mission control, visitors must choose between embarking on a Starfleet or alien voyage. Once decided, each visitor is given a different crew member identity for the journey. From the transporter room, the new crew is to be "beamed" on the ship's bridge to begin their

assigned duties. But the crew is soon interrupted with orders to evacuate the ship and save it from potential disaster.

The crew rushes to the shuttle bay for immediate boarding of the shuttle craft, which whisks them off on the ultimate ride through the galaxies, where only they have the power to successfully carry out their mission.

Each voyage will last 22 minutes. About 1,000 guests an hour can be accommodated. Special "viewer perspective image projection" will be used in the simulated shuttle ride to expand the field of vision and seemingly surround the visitor. Also, each shuttle will be a completely enclosed 12-seat capsule as opposed to a traditional open theater.

Visitors will end their voyage on the Deep Space Nine promenade, where the "most state-of-the art computer games, interactive videos, and virtual reality stations wait to be challenged. Cardassian architecture and interior design provide the setting for upscale, casual 24th century dining experiences." Additionally, an assortment of venue-specific and officially licensed Star Trek merchandise will be available for everyone -- from the novice to the avid collector.

Star Trek: The Experience opens in December 1996 at the Las Vegas Hilton.

- Gene has been accused of creating the IDIC just so that he could merchandise it; but even if this was true it was not the first or only time Star Trek was used for merchandising in the early days - now of course, as one of the actors said at Generation Con, it seems as if Paramount considers the episodes to be commercials for the merchandise.

The Reno Gazette, 6/12/94 had an article about Stephen Poe who wrote The Making of Star Trek using the name Stephen Whitfield. Poe says he worked for a company who made plastic models for the film industry free, in exchange for the model rights.

"I set up a deal to manufacture a model of the Starship Enterprise," Poe said. "It became the best selling model the company ever had. They wanted another model, so I went to Gene Roddenberry, the creator of Star Trek and said, 'We want another ship!'"

He said they didn't have one, so Matt Jeffries, the Star Trek' art director, and I designed a second model based on the Klingon Empire. I feel like that was my one direct contribution to the show."

The Making of Star Trek is in its 29th printing. Poe is now writing a book on Star Trek: Voyager and the Star Trek phenomenon. It will be published by Pocket Books.

- The Star Trek Exhibition was visited by Jimmy Doohan over the weekend of April 20th/21st. He gave a talk and signed autographs. The Exhibition broke even during the week prior to April 8th. It has had its Edinburgh run extended for a week from May 7th to May 14th.

We hear that The Exhibition will be travelling around the UK and that it will be here for 3 years. No details yet.

ON LINE

- **WARP 10** is a weekly e-mailing totally devoted to ONLY to Trek news. The newsletter is an attempt to centralize all the various Trek news from various print and electronic media, interviews, conventions, newsgroups and computer networks (Fido, Internet, AOL, Dephi, etc.)

Please note that the mailing list distributes EXCLUSIVELY via E-mail. There is NO mailing to US or foreign mail addresses. If you are interested in being added to the "Warp 10" Mailing List,

E-mail: endless@kaiwan.com

- A massive new collection of multimedia files relating to Star Trek has just made it onto the World Wide Web! Check out Starfleet Command Headquarters at URL <http://www.netins.net/showcase/sfcmd>

- There is a new World Wide Web home page on the net. The address is: <http://www.hype.com/startrek/home.htm>

- Star Trek author Diane Duane and her husband Peter have an interesting World Wide Web site - <http://www.ibmpcug.co.uk/~owls/index.html> Some Star Trek related FAQs and some stories to download. In addition, if food is

your forte they have links to Irish recipes!

*Dateline Starfleet, rec.arts.startrek.current/info/
fandom.]*

[Sources of information include Warp 10, Engage &



GUIDE DOG DARCY



*Presented to The Star Trek Club - IDIC
with grateful thanks from
The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association*



Cast & Crew NEWS



• **Fan Mail** - Try actors' clubs first, especially with gifts! Mail sent to Paramount may not reach addressee. When writing to an actor always enclose a self-addressed envelope and an International Reply Coupon (available at main Post Offices).

Send TNG/DS9 mail to Paramount Pictures, 5555 Melrose Avenue, Los Angeles CA 90038, USA.

Send Classic/Movie Mail to Lincoln Enterprises, POB 691370, West Hollywood, CA 90069, USA.

Exceptions:

Nichelle Nichols, c/o Jim Meehan, AR-WAY Prod., 22647 Ventura Bl, #121, Woodland Hills, CA 91364, USA.

Grace Lee Whitney, POB 69, Coarsegold, CA 93614, USA.

Robert Justman, POB 491008, Los Angeles, CA 90049-9008, USA

• **LeVar Burton** directed a Voyager episode; will be directing "Stairway to Heaven" (an independent romantic comedy film); he is still hosting PBS' "Reading Rainbow" and will be appearing on CBS' "Christy"

LeVar Burton emceed the National Business Hall of Fame induction ceremony on April 20th. Approximately 1,500 of the nation's top CEOs, presidents and other senior executives met in the Twin Cities, April 20 for the national Business Hall of Fame Conference, the premiere business event which attracts some of the country's most active corporations in the area of education reform.

• **Michael Dorn** has finished filming the movie "The Timemaster" (scheduled for an August release) and a Showtime movie "Amanda and the Alien"

• **Jonathan Frakes** has directed episodes of DS9, VOY, and "University Hospital"; he is still doing voice work on the cartoon "Gargoyles"

• **Whoopi Goldberg** is tentatively set to play

the late civil rights activist Lori Jackson in Paramount's "Dangerous Evidence." This is the true story of Jackson's fight to free a man convicted of a rape. Filming on Dangerous Evidence does not begin until Whoopi and Gerard Depardieu complete "Bogus" and even after that Goldberg is committed to a pair of Disney films.

Whoopi Goldberg signed a \$20 million two picture deal with Hollywood Pictures. Whoopi will play a female basketball coach in "Eddie" and an investment banker dealing with corporate sexism in "The Associates".

• **John de Lancie** costars in UPN's new series "Legend" (which premieres April 18). The series stars Richard Dean Anderson in Western times. From the commercials it seems that Anderson's character teams up with a brilliant scientist, played by John DeLancie ("Q"), who invents gadgets which Anderson uses to become a superhero. Michael Piller is the co-executive producer and co-creator of Legend.

• **Gates McFadden** is working on UPN's "Marker".

• **Nichelle Nichols** is writing a novel entitled "Saturna"

• **Leonard Nimoy** - rumour has it that he is planning to write a sequel to 'I Am Not Spock' to be published in 1996.

Paramount are planning Deadly Games, a SF series produced by Leonard Nimoy (info Alan Stephen)

• **William Shatner** will star in the upcoming sci-fi film "Dark Room"

William Shatner's Star Trek Movie Memories has not sold as well as had been hoped. Publishers Harper Collins said that Shatner's first book, Memories, was able to capitalize on direct appeal to the nostalgia for the

original show but the appeal of the movie background is more limited. However, the major factor is that they were up against a flood of Star Trek product. "In some ways, we were the victims of our own success." Publishers Weekly, the March 20, 1995.

- **Brent Spinner** toured internationally promoting Generations.

- **Patrick Stewart** has been cast in the first production of New York City's Shakespeare-In-The-Park's 1995 Summer Season. He'll play Prospero in the Bard's classic "The Tempest" directed by George C. Wolfe. The Tempest begins in Central Park's Delacorte Theatre on June 15 and runs one month. All performances are free and open to the public.

The Patrick Stewart Appreciation Society, a UK-based club for those interested in Mr. Stewart's career, is pleased to announce that it now has Official Sanctioning from Patrick Stewart. (See ads for details)

Patrick Stewart - finished filming the movies "Jeffrey" and "Let It Be Me"; will be filming

the TV movie "The Canterville Ghost" for ABC

A brand new recording of the famous classical piece by Antonio Vivaldi called "The Four Seasons" has just been released by American Gramophone Records. Patrick Stewart does the narration on this recording. This new CD is called "The Complete FOUR SEASONS" (AGCD801).

AMERICAN GRAMPHONE
9130 Mormon Bridge Road
Omaha, NE 68152. U.S.A.

- **George Takei** was the grand marshal of the '95 Cherry Blossom Festival parade in San Francisco. He rode a Star Trek float and wore a Star Trek uniform.

- **Grace Lee Whitney** - Heather Locklear will portray Grace Lee Whitney in a television movie based on her life.

[Sources of information include High Trek, rec.arts.startrek, current/info/fandom, Warp 10, Engage & Dateline Starfleet]



Star Trek IN THE NEWS

compiled by Janet Quarton



The purpose of this column is to let you know which magazines to look out for as well as letting you know some of what has been printed in the papers. Most magazines are available from the book shops in the info sheets and you can often get back issues of newspapers if you write to the publisher.

- **STARLOG 214** May 1995. Includes an article on Roxann Biggs-Dawson (B'Elanna Torres, Voyager)

- **STAR TREK VOYAGER No. 2** June 1995 (Starlog) Contains articles on: Tim Russ, Garrett Wang, Michael Westmore plus episode reports on Parallax, Time and Again, Phage, The Cloud, Eye of the Needle, Ex Post

Facto

- **TV ZONE 66** May 1995. Includes an interview with TNG director James Conway.

- **ST:TNG POSTER BOOKS**

Issue 85 - Article on the The Past of the Future plus episode guides to Masks and Eye of the Beholder.

- **STARBURST 200** April 1995. This edition includes an article on Leonard Nimoy and an interview with Brannon Braga. There are also small colour pics and quotes from many Star Trek cast members.

• **STARBURST TV SCI-FI SPECIAL #24**

Includes articles on Jonathan Frakes and Voyager.

• **STAR TREK Monthly No. 2 Titan.** This

Klingon issue also includes news; articles on The Star Trek Exhibition Update, ST Voyager and Nichelle Nichols; plus a 25 page, TNG/DS9 Comic Strip.



MERCHANDISE



compiled by Janet Quarton

• **UPCOMING BOOK RELEASES**

The Star Trek: The Next Generation Companion The new edition has been updated and revised to include all seven seasons of Next Generation and Generations.

Star Trek #75: First Frontier by Diane Carey & Dr. James I Kirkland. Kirk and Spock must travel back in time and find out what happened to the human race, which has disappeared from Earth.

ST:TNG #36: Into the Nebula. Someone is causing extensive environmental damage to the planet Kratin, and the crew members of Enterprise are arrested while trying to help. With time running out, Data must save both his colleagues and a dying planet.

ST: DS9 #12 The Laertian Gamble By Robert Sheckley. Under the bizarre tenets of Laertian Complexity Theory, Dr. Bashir's good luck streak at Quark's gaming tables is accompanied by a series of disasters for the Federation: ore ships vanish, planets lose their atmospheres, suns go nova, etc. Meanwhile, Major Kira and Dax are on the planet Laertes where they must fight their way through chaos and save Deep Space Nine and the Federation.

ST: VOY #4 Violations by Susan Wright Under the guise of helping the crew find a way home, a group of aliens board the U.S.S. Voyager and then steal the main computer. To get it back, Captain Janeway is forced to negotiate with the thieves— who are from a consortium of planets where thievery is a way of life.

The Star Trek Concordance Trade paperback. The A-to-Z Guide to the Classic Television Series and Films. Bo Trimble who began the legendary Save Star Trek campaign assembled this meticulously-researched reference guide to 79 episodes of the regular series and all six movies. The A-Z lexicon defines over 2000 names, weapons, ships, aliens, planets, and more and includes actors, credits, SFX, and more. 400+ illustrations.

A 4-part crossover series called "Invasion!" that will span all four Trek book series: Diane Carey will author the TOS novel; Dean Wesley Smith & Kristine Kathryn Rusch (who wrote the just-released first new Voyager novel, "Escape") the TNG one; L.A. Graf gets the DS9 novel; and Dafydd ab Hugh draws the Voyager one. No release dates yet.

Net Trek is a new guide to the seemingly limitless stores of data on the Internet, where Star Trek fans can meet, chat, swap information and get updates on their favorite stars. Written by Michael Wolff this book gives practical information on how to get the most out of being a Trek fan.

The book, published by Random House and Michael Wolff & Co., costs \$19.

Volume II of "The Nitpicker's Guide for Next Generation Trekkers" is coming out in November. It will include updates of the TNG series through season 7, Star Trek Generations and additional nits sent in by people over the last couple of years.

There will also be a re-release of "The Nitpicker's Guide for Classic Trekkers" which would include many more nit-picks than the

original because quite a few nitpicks were missed and sent in by readers.

A Nitpicker's Guide for Star Trek: Deep Space 9 in November 1996.

• VIDEO UPDATE

CIC provisional release dates:

2 June:

DS9 - Vol 3.7- Life Support/Heart of Stone
June 5th:

Voy - Collectors Edition (Caretaker plus
"Behind the Scenes")

26 June:

DS9 - Vol 3.8- Destiny/Prophet Motive
Voy - Vol 1.1 - Caretaker

10 July:

DS9 - Vol 3.9 - Visionary/Distant Voices
Voy - Vol 1.2 - Parallax/Time and Again

7 August:

DS9 - Vol 3.10
Voy - Vol 1.3 - Phage/The Cloud

28 August:

DS9 - Vol 3.11
Voy - Vol 1.4 - Eye of the Needle/Ex Post
Facto

11 September:

DS9 - Volume 3.12*
Voy - Vol 1.5 - Emanations/Prime Factors

25 September:

DS9 - Vol 3.13*
Voy - Vol 1.6 - State of Flux/Heroes &
Demons

9 October:

Voy - Vol 1.7 - Cathexis/Faces

23 October:

Voy - Vol 1.8 - Jetrel/Learning Curve
Voy - Vol 1.9

6 November:

Voy - Vol 1.10
Voy - Vol 1.11

20 November:

Voy - Vol 1.12*
Voy - Vol 1.13*

*Subject to the availability of master materials.

• Calendars

Star Trek 1996 30th Anniversary Calendar - Features many rare and never-before-seen full color photographs

Star Trek: Generations 1996 - Includes a bonus special effects centerfold of the film's poster art

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine 1996 - Includes a bonus special effects centerfold.

Star Trek: Voyager 1996 - Includes photos from Voyager's first season.

The following mainly refer to releases in the US but a lot of shops do import.

- Besides a TNG Romulan Warbird as the main Christmas ornament release, Hallmark is also planning to sell ornaments of Captains Kirk and Picard, and miniatures of the Enterprise, Enterprise-D, and a Klingon Bird of Prey. Look for them later this year.

- SkyBox are bringing out a new trading card set, Star Trek: Voyager Series One Collector Cards. This series, the first in a two-part set, is scheduled for release June 7, 1995.

Series One, which focuses on the premiere episode, will contain story cards, 24th century technology cards, behind-the-scenes cards, and a nine-card U.S.S. Voyager mural. Series One will contain 98 regular cards.

The second series, scheduled to release November 8, 1995, will include summaries of each episode from the entire first season.

- Star Trek Omnimedia CD - Based on the best selling Star Trek Encyclopedia, this CD ROM disc contains thousands of entries accessible alphabetically, thematically and chronologically, accompanied by true-to-life 3-D renderings, 300 audio clips, 50 minutes of Quicktime movies, 50 animated storyboards used in Star Trek episodes, blueprints, technical diagrams, and full color photos—over 1500 images. And hold on to yourself!—it's voice activated! An amazing new voice recognition technology allows you to access the entire database using over 600 spoken commands, just like Kirk and Picard. Mac and Windows editions available in June.

The advertisement states that the a PC will require a multimedia PC, 386/33 MHz or better, 4 Megabytes of RAM, SVGA card with 256 colors, color SVGA monitor. PC complaint sound card, Microsoft Windows

3.1 or higher and a double speed CD ROM player.

- Playmates releases most aggressive Star Trek line ever! No less than 74 new figures, and 19 large figures are on the way - not counting anything from Star Trek: Voyager!

New releases include: four "Space Talk" figures of Will Riker, Q, Captain Picard and a Borg; TNG - a Holodeck Series of Sheriff Worf, Troi as Durango and Data in 1940's attire; An "All Good Things" series includes Admiral Riker, a bearded Picard, a visorless Geordi and Governor Worf; Six new "spring-powered" figures including a Borg and the Traveler; Twenty new diecast figures include the main seven characters from TNG with a Borg and Q in Judge robes, Sisko, Quark, Odo, Dax and Chief O'Brien from DS9 along with Kirk, Spock, Scotty, Bones, Sulu and Uhura; Ships include the "All Good Things" future Enterprise, a talking USS-1701D, a Ferengi Marauder, a Cardassian Warship, a Klingon Bird of Prey and a new Romulan Disruptor; 17 new DS9 figures include Sisko in "Crossover" outfit, Dax in "Blood Oath" attire and Odo in "Necessary Evil" attire; USS Defiant; From Classic Star Trek, 10 new figures from various films, a Classic Enterprise, the Excelsior (or Enterprise B) and a Classic Tricorder!

The Generations Enterprise B is no longer being produced. A new big ship, NCC 2000X Excelsior, will be hitting the shelves about June. The "Classic" Enterprise NCC 1701 should appear on the shelves about June. The "Classic" Tricorder is coming, also in June. Bajoran Phaser and Tricorders will be shipped in June or July.

- Mark Lenard, well known to fans as Mr. Spock's father Sarek, will write the first issue of Star Trek: Deep Space Nine Celebrity Series: Blood And Honor by Malibu Comics.

Mark Lenard along with co-writer and illustrator Ken Penders, relates an epic adventure of the 24th century, introducing the Romulan Commander's son, Jannek, who undertakes a diplomatic mission to Bajor. Complicating things is murder aboard Deep Space Nine, a mysterious artifact, and a beautiful ensign with a very impressive family history.

A limited run will signed by Mr.

Lenard, and will come with a certificate of authenticity. The book is released in June for \$19.95 for the signed copy.

- Star Trek: Voyager original soundtrack album featuring the pilot, score by Jay Chataway and the Main Title Theme by Jerry Goldsmith is now available from GNP Crescendo Records.

GNP Crescendo Records, 8400 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90069. Toll-Free (USA only) 1-800-654-7029. Direct 213-656-2614

Fax: 213-656-0693

UK or Europe - Silva Screen Records Ltd, 261 Royal College St., London NW1 9LU England. Direct 0171-284-0525.

Fax: 0171-482-2385

- When Worlds Collide tapes now available. Last November, The National Public Radio broadcast a remake of "War of the Worlds," and an original sequel "When Worlds Collide", by Nat Segaloff and John DeLancie (Q). The adaptation featured Gates McFadden, Leonard Nimoy, Dwight Schultz, Armin Shimmerman, Brent Spiner, Wil Wheaton, and Jerry Hardin. In "When Worlds Collide", the Trek stars play themselves while encountering an invasion from Mars!! The tapes are now available from L.A. Theatre Works.

The price is \$19.95 (Plus \$3 for shipping and handling, California residents add 8.25% sales tax) Running time is 72 min. The ID number: #TPT50. L.A. Theatre Works, 681 Venice Blvd., Venice, Ca 90291 U.S.A.





e welcome your letters of comment and discussion for this section on the understanding that they may be edited for length or content at our discretion.

Some pointers: When referring to anything in a previous n/l make it clear what you are talking about for those who do not have that newsletter.

Keep your letters as short as possible - a maximum of 500-550 words. If you find this impossible consider whether you should be writing an article instead. As letters may be edited for length, if there is something you would prefer us not to cut please indicate this.

We encourage active discussion, but please try to avoid negative and aggressive letters. If you make a request which requires members to write to you please give your address.

Keep letters on a separate sheet from other submissions and put 'for postbag'.

You might find it useful to use the following smiley symbols occasionally to indicate that your comment is not to be taken too seriously.

- :-) Basic smile
- ;-) Winky smile
- :(Frowning smile

• Sheila Clark - Dundee

To Martin Helsdon - Yes, I saw that Horizon programme about the Himalayas causing cooling of the Earth. Do I take it that this theory is superseding the one that says the ice ages, etc, were caused by the Antarctica tectonic plate apparently being stuck over the south pole?

Incidentally, if some of the basic building blocks of life did come from space, it still leaves one with the question of where life originated in the first place. Just because

it can't be completely duplicated in a laboratory yet, there's no reason to assume that life *couldn't* somehow have started on Earth completely independently of any other life forms on any other planet. I can't help feeling it's very defeatist, as well as a sign of an enormous racial inferiority complex, to assume that life *must* have started somewhere else and been brought here. Of course, one could also argue that it's supremely egoistic to assume that a planet of a minor sun near the edge of the galaxy was so inviting that some advanced alien race couldn't resist seeding it!

Re Security Vulcans. Given Vulcan's past history of aggression ("...nearly killed themselves with their passions" - McCoy, All Our Yesterdays, where Spock regressed emotionally no more than 5000 years) and the simple fact that variations in emotional control must exist, logically there have to be some Vulcans whose control is poor and who are perfectly liable to react with violence to a given trigger, even if that trigger is only the early days of the onset of pon farr. It therefore follows (to use the language of logic) that some form of law enforcement is needed - hence Vulcans who can, and therefore will, make a career for themselves in police or security work, their logical aim being to keep the peace by stopping those anti-social characters who would disturb it.

Re Spot's kittens - Unless someone on the ship was specifically breeding cats, I'd have expected any male cats on board to be neutered in fairly short order, unless the entire crew of the Enterprise has absolutely no sense of smell!

To Tony McNally - Re Relics and Scotty forgetting Kirk was dead. Yes, I agree we can explain it - but we shouldn't have to. TV & film makers are professionals, and professionals should be able to maintain

continuity even across the border between TV and film - it's the same production team, after all. But then it's the same with books and zines; the amateur writers get the relationships right, the professional writers usually don't.

To Kerry McGuire - Re Bajoran earrings - I'd say the reason why Kira wears it in the right ear when Ro wore it in the left is poor continuity, nothing more. Another case of it can be explained, but why should we have to?

Er - Re the Federation/Cardassian war. Maybe I missed something, but were we ever actually told what it was all about or how long it had gone on? My impression was that it suddenly emerged (courtesy of the Cardassian occupation of Bajor) as much as anything to give a reason for the Maquis, which in turn was to give a jumping-off point for Voyager; otherwise why was the Flagship of the Fleet never involved?

• **Sarah Rooke - Southsea**

To Neil Barrett - Message received, smoke signal comprehended. However, I would like to point out that a lot of sci-fi (especially Star Trek) has a lot of metaphysical/spiritual elements in it, and I know that a lot of scientists are becoming more interested in this side of things as science comes closer to it.

To Nanaki Kaur - Re Imzadi (about the Riker/Troi relationship) by Peter David - it's a lovely story and made me feel very sad afterwards (it's a beautifully written love story).

To Alberto Gorin, T'Yomin & Lt K'ehlyr tai Koloth - At last, fellow closet aliens! I've come to the conclusion I'm half Betazoid/Bajoran, myself.

To Sheila Clark - I did actually laugh at Steve's joke on Clearasil, and from meeting him I know him to be a funny guy.

To Jennifer Cobbing - I agree wholeheartedly with you re the Generations movie; though I did enjoy it, I'd rather see a TV episode any day.

To Anne Lindup - Thanks for an enjoyable time at USS Excalibur. I really loved it, especially seeing some of Voyager. I was very impressed with Kate Mulgrew as Captain and agree with Majel - it is indeed 'triumphant' at long last, and may it continue!

To Tim Gaskill - I really like the magazine since you took over as editor, though I'm not surprised the Festival in Malta was cancelled. I thought it was too good to be true, even though the prices seemed a mite expensive to me at the time it was originally announced.

To Clare Finkel - Gene's vision is so positive about the future, and I think that's what attracts so many people. There are a lot of 'gloom and doom' prophets around, so amongst all the negativity about us we need something like this to rise above it all.

To Paul Taylor - wherever you are this time. Loved the saucer landings - what a hoot! I wonder if they had a copy of The Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy handy at the time with the words "Don't panic"?

To Gloria & Gillian Fry - Loved Spock's CV (N/L 38) - has me in stitches every time I read it. It's - well - excellent!

• **Tony Amis - Great Yarmouth**

I would like to plug the Trek audio tapes to everyone, especially Dark Mirror (John de Lancie reading) and Cacophony (the latest Sulu adventure). I have discovered these recently and I think that people would enjoy the voice performances, and indeed the stories they tell. George Takei's William Shatner is very pleasing on Spock's World.

I'm itching to see Voyager after the latest reviews it has had; much more favourable than DS9, which I enjoy, but not quite as much as TNG or CT.

Favourite episodes - here goes. TNG - 1, All Good Things; 2, The Offspring; 3, Darmock; 4, Parallels. CT - 1, Mirror Mirror; 2, Doomsday Machine; 3, Space Seed; 4, Amok Time. DS9 - 1, Captive Pursuit; 2, Crossover; 3, The Wire; 4, The Siege. Movies - 2, 6, 7, 4, 3, 1, 5. These things change all the

time, though!

• **Matthew Christie - Dundee**

I hate to burst the bubble of all those who have poked fun at Troi's "driving" (including me and Marina Sirtis herself!), but it was Data who was "driving". Although I don't have the video to check, did Troi not shout "Helm's off line!", followed by Data saying something about rerouting controls. And the conclusive evidence - Data shouting "Attempting to level out descent!". I may be wrong, but that suggests to me that he was in control (or if not, just pretending he was so that Troi wouldn't get slagged off - take your pick!)

To anyone - Have we not reached a point where the name Enterprise (TM) has become a jinx rather than a blessing? Any crew members joining a new ship must be wondering when a fatal disaster is about to occur. Destroying the 1701-D was totally unnecessary (what happened to ejecting the warp core?). If Messrs Berman & Piller wanted a new look, why not simply refit the ship, updating computer consoles around the main viewscreen(!) or a new tank for Livingstone (doesn't he get bored looking at that same piece of coral?) - they could have done anything short of trashing Star Trek's first lady!

To Liz Barrie - I'll convert you into a TNG/DS9/Voyager fan yet!

• **Glyn Holland - Willenhall, W. Mids**

It was interesting to read the comments on Generations, especially as they were the thoughts of genuine Trek fans and not "professional" reviewers who, for the main, don't know what they're talking about.

Personally I enjoyed the film better second time as the first viewing was at the Premier and I guess I was too excited to concentrate fully, bearing in mind certain VIPs in the audience! I was also fortunate enough to attend the after-premier party and meet all my "heroes" in person (except for Jonathan Frakes and William Shatner who did not attend). They were, without exception, the nicest, friendliest bunch of people, not an ego amongst them. Patrick

and Brent were happy to autograph my cinema tickets and they all posed for photos.

That was definitely my idea of the Nexus and, y'know, Guinan was right, once there you never want to leave. Don't be too hard on Soran, he has my sympathy, as I would plot, scheme, destroy planets (yes, I know that's a bit extreme) to have, once again - cue violins, Brent's arm around my shoulders and my arm round his waist, leaning my head on his chest... aah, We'll Always Have Paris. If I hadn't got the photo to prove it, I'd think it was a dream.

Oh, and to all you Brentophiles out there - yes, his eyes really are incredibly blue, and yes, his stare really does hit you like a photon torpedo blast. I'm talking complete cascade failure of the knees. Hubba, hubba! (Skippy sez "Ain't love wonderful"!!)

• **Baerbel Schmidt - Ashford, Kent**

To Annette Bohm - SPOILER ALERT Yes, they did it! To my annoyance Paramount killed off Vedek Bareil in Life Support! Long before I got this episode I got a copy of the flyer from the Philip Anglim Society that you probably got as well. I immediately distributed it to everyone I know and wrote myself in order to prevent this, but obviously the campaign fell on deaf ears and I've already written a strong letter to Paramount complaining about his death.

To be fair, the episode is an excellent Bashir one and deals with the question of how far doctors are allowed to go to keep somebody alive, in a very thoughtful and touching way. Bareil dies like a hero; he dies for peace, but at the end I was numb and asked myself, "Was this necessary? Why did he have to die?" Kirk's death in Generations hardly moved me, but at the end of this episode I was crying.

My American pen friend told me (it's quite funny) - all her (and my) *female* friends feel the way we do, but most *men* said "Thank god that he is gone!" One reason for his death might be indeed that Star Trek is mainly done by men and they are obviously not too keen on developing or keeping relationships between men and women -

K'Ehlyr was killed thanks to Mr Piller, the relationships between Picard and Dr Crusher or Deanna/Riker, Deanna/Worf were rarely dealt with seriously - and this, mainly after Jeri Taylor joined the team. The Generations movie proved to me that after the series has finished we can look forward to lots of action and SFX, but the tender and romantic character scenes I also liked in TNG are gone (or will come up as an afterthought, not a main topic). I think this is very sad indeed. And who will be next? Keiko now has work on Bajor. I am afraid they might want to get rid of her as well. And who knows how long Kes will live?

I haven't got the next episode (Heart of Stone) yet, but Lolito Fatjo said at the Generations convention that Odo and Kira will confess their love for each other in it. And that just after Bareil has died? I think this is very tasteless, and if it is true, it will annoy me even more.

• **Alberto Gorin - Holland**

Generations came out on March 6th - I rushed to the cinema, but there were not many people there.

I understand people have problems with Kirk's death and the ship being destroyed, and even some other things in the movie. What I can't understand are people saying they hate the movie without having seen it.

The movie is wanting to say there is a time to begin and a time to end; this period of time ends. Kirk dies, and maybe it's the end of this crew, and we go on to a brand new time and brand new enemies. But who said Kirk is dead? So long as William Shatner is alive so is James T Kirk.

There are a few things I would change. I'd like to see more of Enterprise-B launch, the shuttlecraft rooms, the elevator; I would make the journey of the ship longer - it's very short and the crew hardly did a thing. And I would place *only* Captain Kirk on the Enterprise. It's a bit dumb leaving without torpedoes or tracker beams.

Destroying Enterprise 1071-A in The

Search for Spock was exciting; in Generations it was okay. Done again I'd get tired of it.

Over all I found it very good - 9+ points.

I hope the new Enterprise-E with its new crew will have a new enemy instead of Klingons. How about Romulans or Ferengi, or better, brand new aliens?

• **Jacqueline Y Comben - Rhossili, Gower**

I was fascinated by some of the comments on ST-Generations. My view of the movie began with the discovery that, in 1995, a cinema (UCI, Swansea) can still break a film and end up showing it minus about 2 minutes. We were not amused!

However, to the movie itself; I went because I intended to 'unwrite' it, seeing it as alternate universe, as something that never really happened. Therefore, I did not expect to be emotionally stirred - and was not. What fascinated me was the discovery that many others (who did expect to be moved) ended up as calmly critical as I was. What also surprised me was how ridiculously easy it is to 'unwrite' the plot. My version is so much more likely than the film that it hardly seems worth writing - though I am not letting that stop me! I agree with every adverse criticism in Issue 39.

Some years ago, I was reading a story written by a fellow fan. At one point, confused, I asked him, "Why didn't they beam up at this point?" The writer replied with a grin, "Because the stupid author forgot the transporter!" The writers of ST-Generations seem to have forgotten rather a lot, or to think the movies are not for fans but for mere members of the general public who know nothing about Trek. I suspect a lot of the public know quite a lot about Trek. If the movies do not improve, no amount of publicity hype is going to make them successful.

With respect to Voyager - very like OT in feel, and I do see what Janet means - Janeway does seem to be modelled very closely on JTK! So far quality is patchy, but that is par for the course. At its best, it is not

at all bad, but one episode sent me to sleep, as a lot of TNG did. Of course, I am an unrepentant OT fan! DS9, I still love - the characters grabbed me immediately, while those of Voyager haven't quite managed to hook me yet.

I have a theory - OT fans tend not to like TNG, which immediately replaced 'our' Trek. TNG fans, in turn, don't like DS9, which replaced 'their' Trek. Everyone is O.K. with Voyager, because no-one sees it as responsible for the departure of their favourite characters.

I cannot imagine a worse move than getting rid of Sisko and putting Riker in command of DS9. Sisko is a far stronger character - he just doesn't fancy himself as Riker does!

• **David Styles - Asford, Kent**

Just my luck: As soon as I get lucky & win the raffle, it gets cancelled! Oh, well never mind!

To any computerphiles: I bought the Star Trek Interactive Technical Manual (for windows). I then spent about £400 upgrading my PC to be able to run it. I get constant application errors. Any suggestions, please ??

Also, I've just bought a preview CD-Rom for the TNG game "A Final Unity". It looks awful!

Re "Humour Alert": What one person may think of as a light hearted joke another can take as a personal insult. It's all too easy to inadvertently offend people. Although I do try never to give offence; reading the last dozen newsletters, I seem to do it all the time. However the strength of IDIC is that no matter how much I unwittingly seem to upset people, their replies are usually polite and courteous. Our disagreements are conducted in a controlled manner. Compare this to yesterday's TV news (9th April) which carried scenes of some poor unfortunate who had been killed during a disagreement about his hobby: a football supporter was lying dead in a pool of blood for wearing what was seen to be the wrong colour scarf.

To Rory Smith: Tasha's daughter is explained in Redemption Part II. Q introduces the Borg in Q-Who.

To Stephen Daniels: Wolf 359 is the third closest star to our sun; a bit too close for comfort for a fight with the Borg, eh! Also I must disagree with you about the Teddy being dropped during saucer separation in Generations. I cried real tears over that scene.

To Steve Farmer: I have come to the unfortunate conclusion that the BBC don't want to show Star Trek at all. When TNG was first being shown on BBC2, an interview with some faceless executive at the Beeb (can't remember who) revealed that the BBC had only bought TNG to stop ITV running it against Eastenders. Also the BBC's own figures show that the sport which is put on all too often in place of Star Trek gets less that half the viewers that Star Trek does. When one considers that Doctor Who is BBC Video's best moneyspinner and the BBC refuse point-blank to bring Doctor Who back, it becomes apparent that the BBC just isn't interested in Science Fiction of any sort.

To Donna Smith: Yes, that was my name in Empire magazine. However I don't think that much else that was attributed to me in that article was actually said by me. I believe such "making it up" is called artistic license. As an aside, at the end of that evening, the fleet of taxis to take us back to Charing Cross station for the last train home was one short. Consequently I found myself stranded in London with a Vulcan and a Klingon (in full make-up) for company.

To Catherine Carter: I agree that seeing Trek actors in real life can shatter some illusions. An interview I saw with Marina Sirtis had her speaking with a broad cockney accent. So much for Deanna's sexy voice. And Scotty really speaks with a Canadian accent!

Re Bohemian Rhapsody videos: Page's bar have always auctioned one off each time I've been there, but they go at over one hundred pounds a time. Because the money goes to charity, I've never found anyone willing to copy the video for me.

And finally: The Sunday boot fair in Ashford is openly selling pirate copies of Generations. (As well as various Disney titles.) Does CIC (and other video firms) actually do anything about video piracy any more, or are all the warnings on our very expensive video tapes all part of an elaborate ruse to justify the extortionate price of videos? [*Janet - people selling pirate videos are in danger of being arrested - it has happened.*]

• **Neil J Barrett** - Sir, I protest! I am NOT a byline writer...

To Vicky Roberts (39/49), Jean Sloan (39/21) and others: I'm prepared to defend my position on fan fiction and reviews but it would take far more space than the Postbag allows. I leave it up to the readers to decide whether they would prefer an article or to take this matter 'off-line' as it were.

To Sheila Clark (39/84): I'm pretty sure that the '6 basic plots' idea was mentioned by the late Isaac Asimov but I've never found out what they were. I'd say that SF is a wider genre than crime or Western novels since it can emulate both of them by setting a murder mystery in a futuristic location or pitting colonists against hostile environments/aliens. You and I have privately discussed the phenomenon of recurring Trek themes e.g. Klingons secretly being behind civil unrest on a non-aligned planet. In some cases, it doesn't really matter that you recognise the theme or the stereotyped characters if the story still grips you.

To Carole Taylor (39/20): Next time I'm in Rawtenstall, I will surreptitiously plant some second-hand ST books for you to seek out... I'd heartily back Sheila's advice on 'Vulcan!' by Kathleen Sky (Mrs Stephen Goldin); don't waste £4.50 on this unless you happen to be an obsessive Spock fan who would like to imagine yourself in place of Katalya Tremain. I paid £1.50 for the Corgi edition in 1984 and regretted it afterwards.

To Clare Finkel (39/30): Actually, 'infinite' really does mean infinite. Life is not a buffet from which you can choose the bits

you like and ignore the rest. The world which doesn't have lying, cheating, fighting etc. is an ideal toward which we can strive. To paraphrase Jim Kirk in 'A Taste of Armageddon' - "But the instinct can be fought ... We can admit that we're killers but we're not going to kill today." Gene did realise that his vision wouldn't fit with the demands of commercial TV and thus we have 23rd/24th Century characters who still have 20th Century failings; so that we, with our own 20th Century failings, can identify with them. Luckily he did manage to retain what has been called the "Optimism Effect", the belief that we can achieve the ideal if we work together with open minds, ignore our prejudices and embrace diversity. This spirit is what attracted many of the original fans and still keeps some of us going today.

To Leslie Moyes (39/39): Terribly sorry about the mis-spelling (and possible inadvertent sex change) last time. Have you considered that Simon Hawke might be a fan of Gheorghe Zamfir or various Andean musicians that Terrapin Quadrortitcale will know? A 'syrinx' is a pan-pipe and they definitely came before Rush.

To Nigel Nixon (39/34): Very quickly before I go over the word limit. Starfleet may have one name on official records and another in colloquial use. I'm led to believe that most naval crews have a nickname for their ship (often scurrilous). USS Ti-Ho comes from "Mr Scott's Guide to the Enterprise" and I've already been castigated for mentioning this non-canon source.

To Neil Safi (39/33): Of course Rolf Harris is a fan! He invented the Edoans for a start - "I'm Jake the Peg, diddle-iddle-iddle-um, with the extra leg, diddle-iddle-iddle-um." :-)

• **Bill McClure - 1032 South Main St./ Woodstock, VA 22664/U.S.A.**

To Rory Smith - The very first Borg episode, featuring Q, was entitled "Q Who." I would offer to make copies of the Borg episodes you requested, but overseas postage would be involved, and unfortunately, our two countries insist on continuing to use differing videotape formats...

To Damian Griffiths - re: the missing time in the episode "Clues" - Yep, you're right. Gee, and here I thought changing back and forth to Daylight Savings Time was confusing!

To Stephen Daniels and Neil Barrett - re: Troi & Worf's rank - Sorry, but Worf is gaining on her. In "Generations," Worf was promoted to Lieutenant Commander, so now they're only one rank apart.

To Edward Woo - re: your suggestion to Rory Smith concerning Picard's so-called "genocide" of the Tarchannen III life-forms - Besides all the moral and ethical implications that would be involved in simply handing over innocent people for them to "assimilate" just to perpetuate their species (I doubt if anyone would simply volunteer for that duty), don't you think it would also constitute a grave violation of the Prime Directive to interfere in their process of procreation like that?

To Gaile Wood and Marie Park - re: Data's lack of promotion - In "The Best of Both Worlds" Riker pointed out that Data's very nature precludes him from a sense of ambition, so I'm surprised he ever even made it as far as Lieutenant Commander!

To Gul Melset - re: scientific inaccuracies in "Pen Pals" and "Genesis" - Now before you go and get your neck cartilage worked up into spasms like that, all I can say is, hey pal, just remember that this is science-FICTION!

To Michael Johnson - I don't know about anyone else, but the main reasons I don't like DS9 are because there is too much unnecessary conflict (i.e. hatred) between the characters (which goes against Gene's vision AND the philosophy of IDIC), and because the storylines are just plain boring. (As another member once put it, they're simply sitting there, "waiting for something to fall out of the wormhole.") I don't really care for DS9's religious and political storylines either - the main reason I've always watched Trek is because it provides a form of escapism from all those sorts of troubling things in the real world...

To Rory Smith, Stephen Daniels, Liz Caldwell, Pam Baddeley and Eunice Pearson - re: all the changes in Trills between TNG's "The Host" and DS9's "Emissary" - Simply yet another example of why DS9 is NOT true Trek, if you ask me...

To Annette Bohm - SPOILER ALERT Sorry, but yes, it is true - Vedek Bareil did die recently. In the very next episode, the reason became all too clear as to why - he was simply being cleared out of the way so Odo could finally profess his hidden love for Kira... By the way, with the signing of the recent peace treaty, the Federation and the Cardassians are *already* allies (except for the Maquis and the Obsidian Order, that is...) For info on Jonathan Del Arco, check out the Official Fan Club Magazine, issue #93. Also, about a year ago now, in the same publication, an ad for his Borg fan club appeared - SAE/IRC to: The Collective/P.O. Box 80564/Canton, Ohio 44708/U.S.A.

To Adam North, Russell Witheyman, Steve Farmer, and most everyone else - re: Voyager - I think you will all be quite pleased with the new series. Personally, it reminds me a lot more of TOS than any of the other Trek series, and so far it has been quite faithful to Gene's vision. (And in my opinion, it blows DS9 right out of the water!)

To the Bolivian terrorist - re: Voyager falling into a wormhole back to the Alpha Quadrant - Nope, sorry, but they've *already* tried that, and (fortunately?), the "Eye of the Needle" didn't get them back home. (Ooh, big surprise there!)

To Clare Finkel - re: IDIC and Gene's vision of the future - In my interpretation, the whole point Gene was trying to make was that Humans are capable of growth and change (for the better). IDIC seems to ignore the "bigots, murderers, liars, etc." you mentioned, because in a more perfect society (like that of Vulcan or Earth in the 24th century), those sorts of people would no longer exist. Also, whereas the sorts of negative behaviour you mentioned ("greed, overcrowding, genocide, torture, etc.") may have been abolished from those planets, yes, they would still exist in other places, but only

as a plot device to point out that Humans actually have evolved to a higher level by that time. It's just like Data pointed out to Lal - the struggle to improve one's self will eventually yield its own rewards...

To Kerry McGuire - re: duration of commbadge signals - That's probably one of those things that are determined purely by a sense of dramatic licensing necessary for the storyline.

To Pat Mitchell - re SAE's - Here in the States, the acronym SASE is much more prevalent. Just a suggestion - since the whole idea is to save on postage, perhaps you should be requesting "Self-Addressed *Stamped* Envelopes" instead. *[Sheila - I was always under the impression that SAE meant stamped addressed envelope.]*

To Helen Thompson - For "reams of information" on Trek alien races, you should check out Shane Johnson's book, "The Worlds of the Federation." I've found it to be an invaluable reference source.

To D.E. Evans - re: the Okudas' ST Encyclopedia - There were many more than just 40-some errors in the paperback version I bought; I found nearly 200 mistakes. (For a SAE and 3 IRC's I could send you a copy of them if you're still interested.) After composing more than 100 pages of text to the authors - including a three-month-long compilation of all the information which needed to be added from TNG's final, seventh season - the only "reply" I ever received was a snobbish photocopy of a page from a dictionary showing a rarely-used definition for a word they had used which I had taken to be a misspelling. (Gee, how's that for gratitude?) If you ask me, you shouldn't take their book too seriously, even if everyone else does claim it's "gospel"...

To Janet Quarton - re: "Generations" - Gee, and here I thought I had been soured by the new movie! Like you, I can't imagine how a tale filled with so much death, destruction and mayhem could be enjoyed by so many people, but unlike you, it never crossed my mind to actually boycott the whole thing. From the viewers' comments

I've seen in 'zines so far, I've noticed that, in general, the British reaction to the film has been slightly more negative than here in America. (Hmmm...) The thing about the movie that bothered me the most was how they practically "killed off" my favourite character too - Data. Personally, I thought the only funny thing he said or did at all was *before* he even had that stupid chip installed. After seeing Data stripped of the very core of his character - his non-emotionality - I wished I would have followed your lead and not even seen the darned thing at all. *[Janet - I am not sure 'boycott' is the correct word. I just decided not to go and see a film that had a storyline I disliked and which killed off my favourite character.]*

• Nigel Nixon - Reading

To Sheila Clark N/L39, p17-Yes, I see what you mean, but (what a useful word!) there's a big difference between an Ensign (like Chekov or the Wretched Wesley) training under constant supervision and a Doctor, who's going to be of command rank and probably department head. I think it really comes down to how far the Starfleet/Royal Navy analogy is taken. It works very well with Ensigns, but as Navy surgeons were notorious as drunken incompetents, with no knowledge of the Navy and little interest in their patients I can see problems arising if it's taken to extremes!

Re Captains not beaming down with away teams, maybe it's to save Starfleet the hassle of all the paternity claims .

To Karen Thompson N/L 39, P 20 - I'm looking forward to Voyager as well. Only two things worry me ;

- 1) Kate Mulgrew, star of the truly terrible Mrs. Columbo .
- 2) (From "The Cloud") "Chakotay helps Janeway get in touch with her animal spirit guide" .

To Kay Staggs N/L 39 p36 - I think your being rather over critical of Nichelle Nichols. NN's beauty was mentioned twice by Richard Madeley (NN "Thank you" both times). As for the "attitude" displayed towards Shatner, NN described him as "A very charming man ... A very talented

director 'who' Withdrew ... or pull [ed] himself away" so the cast tolerated it, but "The cast remained one big happy family". That was all. No attempt to belittle WS or say that the rest of the cast disliked him or resented his attitude. If you like I can send you a copy of the interview transcript to refresh your memory. Don't you think you're being just a little over protective of WS?

To Leslie Moyes N/L 39 p39 - Probably not. Chambers gives three definitions of syrx, which could be subjects of that song. "The Enemy Within" carries no dedication to Trek, and the song and TOS subjects are different, so, yes, probably coincidence. I don't think the phrase The Enemy Within is original with Trek, any ideas anyone?

To Neil Barrett N/L 39 p44 - Two days after I wrote that letter (N/L 38), the ST:TNG Technical Manual turned up (Sod's law strikes again!), that says that 35%(!) of the internal space of the -D remains "empty spaceframe for future expansion and mission-specific applications", i.e., there's nothing there! But, the -D still has to carry all the life-support etc. equipment that would be needed if the space was occupied, so it must be carrying hundreds (probably thousands) of tons of excess weight and is a lot bigger than it needs to be! Bad design or what!

- Crew . If we define crew as people who
- Are employed by Starfleet
 - Who operate the ship
 - Who serve the needs of b)

That takes care of Mr. Mot and Troi, and if we expand b) to include mission specialists that should add up to the 1000 odd crew. But that total surely wouldn't include children or non-working dependants, so we still don't know how many people there are on board .

Names. Strictly speaking you're right. But, as Human culture in TNG is a synonym for American culture (viz. Picard), the form Alexander Rozhenko would be as correct as any.

Nans , wiccass etc. Motion seconded!

• **Sylvia Benson - London SE24 9PL**

I am a brand new member to IDIC and I was fascinated by the interactive postbag, what a great way to exchange ideas, answer questions and generally get to know other fans. I'd like to jump right in here and give my own comments to some of the letters and write ups in issue 39.

To Helen Thompson, I too find a lot of humour in TNG, one of my favourite moments is Data's parody of the typical home coming in "In Theory" his 'how was your day dear' just cracks me up.

To Stephen Daniels on his Generations report. Lighten up! You must have been on antacids for a week after writing that. You come over as a die-hard CT fan who has no room for the NG at all. If you were determined to hate it why did you go? I know a lot of CT fans hated the fact that they killed off Kirk, but there had always been the possibility that this film would have only been NG. The Captain got a chance to do one last thing for the Universe he loved, he went out doing his bit, to make a difference. I think reading the book after seeing the film makes clear some of the plot; I guess they had to cut corners somewhere timewise. I still think it's a lot of fun. Also I thought Data was remarkably restrained with his "Oh Shit" comment - would Mr Daniels like to tell us what his reaction would be to a planet coming head on at him AND NO BRAKES!

One last comment, would those of you who have seen Voyager please stop telling us how wonderful it is. Many fans like myself do not have access to these episodes, we will have to wait until it comes out for hire, you have no idea how frustrating it is to know its available but not to us. Unless you'd care to share? See the wanted section.

• **Clare Finkel** - Woking, soon to be back in the USA. :(and :-), but with my IDIC membership intact! :-)

I admit, I'm one of those who could use the "humor alert" (p16), but I have a question: What is a frowning smile? More importantly, what does it signify? I have a few more, too. Can you figure what they signify?

:8-O and :-* (The latter might be what some of you wish me.)

[Janet - They are called *smilies*. :- (means a frown or sad - at least it looks sad. Following is a list of *smilies* I have but it does get complicated. I think we should stick to the basic ones for IDIC.

:-) Basic smilie
;-) Winky smilie
:-(Frowning smilie
:-I Indifferent smilie
:-> Biting remark
>:-> Devilish remark.
>:-> Winky and devil
:-! Foot in mouth
:-# Beardie
:-} Reluctant smilie

I think this is just an abridged list. I am sure I saw a book of smilies in a shop a while ago.]

In support of Baerbel's comment (p23), but to employers who shy from hiring the disabled. Have you ever considered (besides their normal abilities), that by their disabilities, the disabled learn alternate methods for doing some things? These alternate methods could prove profitable to you and to yours.. (What law of acquisition is that..?) Sounds like a good ST episode, too..

PS: Baerbel, I very much enjoyed your report on the Generations Con. You almost made me regret not going.

To those of you who hide under fake names SHOW YOURSELVES! :-) Please.

To Martin (p23) Vulcans should be more uniform in their beliefs than Humans, because Humans don't follow logic when it comes to mysticism. As to the artifacts in Spock's room: Vulcans don't follow logic when it comes to reproduction. And I suppose they have been working on the "problem," but some laws of nature are insurmountable, even necessary.

Alex (p33) Was your story advertized or critiqued in a recent n/1? At the very least, what is its title? and what incarnation of ST is it from? and for my own personal interest,

are there any Vulcans in it? and if there are, are any of them telepathically linked with Humans? [Ed - See the review of E-LE 92, this n/1.]

Gul Melset (p42) How can such a brilliant scientist as yourself identify with such a shallow and stupid race of people (as they are portrayed on DS9, this season)? If I were you, I'd hide under an assumed name.

Catherine (p43) Spock and Sarek of CT were most humorous when they weren't trying to be, which was never (well, almost never).

Pam (p46) Thanks for your response, and I agree, but your insight wasn't near encouraged in the movies. To my viewing, the opposite was. To me, it seemed a case of, we, the *intelligent-have-all-the-correct-answers* friends, working against the *ignorant-etc-"them."* :- (It seems gone are the days of giving the faceless, as you called them, and even those with faces, any credit at all, nor of trying to understand their point of view.

Neil (p44) For your last paragraph, THANKS!! (-: :-)

• **Pam Baddeley - Farnborough**

To Rory Smith - The episode you want is Q-Who?

To Vered Gilad - You make some good points about the nature of command in space but the difference about going down planetside or not is that if you're on the planet, you're not with your crew if there's an emergency in space!

To Kay Stagg - Of course TNG fans with any sense - most of them, I hope!-realise Classic Trek is the foundation. As a fan of Trek since it started here in 1969, who also likes TNG and DS9, I'm really surprised to hear about criticism of Classic Trek. Is this just a small minority that happen to have loud voices? I'm not a great con-goer these days, but haven't heard any talk like this at the London Away Team events I've been to.

To Kathleen Glancy - Was it Dagger of the Mind you meant, where Spock mindlinks

to Van Gelder? In Whom Gods Destroy, a machine is used to restore the insane inmates to health.

Finally, there was a slight typo in my last letter. It should have read "*some* of the faceless millions rather than *name*". I hope people could guess what it should have been. [Ed - Sorry!]

• **Raymond Spencer - 21 Hope Rd, South Benfleet, Essex SS7 5JH**

To anyone - Are you one of those people who, when you watch a movie or programme and you see an actor/actress you recognise, you spend most of the time racking your brains as to where you've seen them before? Two which have been annoying me for ages is where I've seen Devinoni Rai (Matt McCoy) of The Price and Ishara Yar (Beth Toussaint) of Legacy. I *think* she played Bobby Ewing's girl friend. Can anyone shed any light?

To all Patrick Stewart fans - I've not seen it mentioned in IDIC yet, but you can hear Patrick's vocal talents in the opening and closing dialogue to the soundtrack to Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas.

I suppose most of you have been buying 'The Official Star Trek Monthly'. What do you think of it? To me it's a little like Space Precinct. Nice looking, but lacking something! For up-to-date news you can't beat IDIC. The comic strip is a waste of space, but then I don't buy comics. The first issue had a list of future conventions; issue two seems to have omitted the few originally printed. Still, it's early days yet, and I'm sure that it will sell millions. The interviews are good. Let's hope they continue. I will stick with the magazine for a while - well, I have to collect the bookmark tokens! It could be that it has similarities with DS9 - a little ropy at the start, but now not to be missed! (Why are there so many people out there who dislike the show?)

• **David Gallagher - Fulham**

Re Data's rank. Why should he bother to take the Commander's exam? Even though Dr Crusher and Counselor Troi are full

Commanders and Data may have to follow military etiquette and call them "sir" - he is still (as second officer) third in command of the Enterprise and their senior officer in the chain of command.

Re the first Voyager novel (The Caretaker) - has anyone noticed that for the first time the series title is larger than the Star Trek logo... make of that what you will!

Re the great Kaferian apples debate. It seems to me, with all these arguments about whether or not Kaferian apples have pips, that the obvious (dare I say logical?) conclusion is that there are in fact two species of Kaferian apples - as with some Earth fruit - seedless and non-seedless!

Re the novel ST:TMP. I was under the impression that I had heard or read somewhere that the book had been ghost-written for Gene Roddenberry - have I heard wrong? [Janet - *It's been said, but it's wrong. Gene wrote the novel himself - it was his story, he was a writer - he had no need to get it ghost-written.*]

Anyone seen the new Honda Civic advert - wherein, by the magic of TV, a miniature Borg ship is turned into a new car?

Re Chekov being on the Enterprise at the time of Khan's first 'visit' in Space Seed. I choose to believe that he was aboard the Enterprise at this time, although not currently serving on the bridge - my reasons being the fact that Khan recognised him and that in The Deadly Years Chekov recognised the re-use of Kirk's Corbomite bluff even though he was not apparently aboard during The Corbomite Manouever either.

Re the Dr/Mr Spock confusion among non-Trekkers; I have recently finished working as an entertainments manager in a Bournemouth hotel. One of the questions in one of the many regular general knowledge quizzes was "Name the Vulcan First Officer aboard TV's original Starship Enterprise". Unsurprisingly, it turned out that at least a third of the audience would always incorrectly answer "Dr Spock". Needless to say, I took great pleasure in marking them

wrong. Oh, the power!

Finally, a question inspired by the fairly recent release of the CT novel *Recovery* - the fourth book in what was supposed to be the 'Lost Years' trilogy. My original copy of the first book states that the project was to be a three-way collaboration on three novels; firstly J M Dillard's *Lost Years*, secondly Brad Ferguson's *Flagful of Stars*, and finally Irene Kress's *The War Virus*. Ultimately, we never saw *The War Virus*, and instead had L A Graf's *Traitor Winds*. Followed by Dillard's *Recovery*.

So whatever happened to *The War Virus*? Where did *Traitor Winds* and *Recovery* come from? (And I thought it was only Douglas Adams' trilogies that came in more than three parts?) Answers, please, on the back of a £10 note, and sent to me c/o IDIC!

• **Elizabeth Barrie - Dundee**

To Ruth Borgars, Lindsay Wright, Anike Bissenger, Edward Woo, Gaile Wood, Allan Callaby and Brenda Allan - thank you for all your comments.

• **Gul Melset - Cardassian Embassy, Earth**

To T'Yomin - It would appear no-one is safe from invasion of privacy. Your race is very well liked, thus often treated familiarly by the uninformed; you, however, are not the only victims, if that helps. Federation Terrans seem to consider displays of affection, verbal or physical, as essential, and even we are subjected to this at times. I wonder if it is not a sign of the "my tame aliens" syndrome.

To Baerbel Schmidt - In many societies, the handicapped are relatively isolated, so the general population does not learn to help unobtrusively and only as needed. Melora cannot be faulted for refusing to be a victim of the "compassion" Terrans value so highly, and which forces individuals into dependence. In our society, more compassionate than yours in that respect, you will only find yourself transferred into another, equally prestigious position. I may no longer be commanding a Starship, but am now working at furthering Cardassian-Federation contact. Even though I am in

remission and as mobile as the others, there is still the query, "Are you sure you can..." Go figure; it is incomprehensible.

To Clare Finkel - IDIC indeed means acceptance of all racial and societal differences, but within norms respected by all races; murder, destruction of races, worlds, cultures are in no way an element of IDIC. They are crimes.

Malta cancellation - One word: good. I am a member of a conservationist group that has asked us to avoid Malta because of the wholesale slaughter of birds. Decoys used in hunting are blinded or a wing cut off; those attracted are shot for sport, not need. Petitions have had some results, but not enough yet.

To Paul Taylor - Your alternate saucer landings were devastatingly comical - I needed the laugh.

To John Stevens - The absence of pet birds on Starships is easy to explain. Birds have a pulse rate of 400 and above, and in spite of their resilience are highly prone to shock in frightening situations, even going into cardiac arrest. The vibrations of a Starship going into warp, a combat situation or even an ion storm will have a cat dig in its claws, a reptile flatten itself, but a bird possibly die.

To Neil Barrett - T'Yomin's breakdown of language usage was flawless. In all statistics the first language is used separately, with further statistics denoting further languages used. Most individuals have more than one language at their disposal, of necessity. Most of us know at least two, and understand most dialects of these languages.

To Brenda Allan - Freedom fighters, resp. Terrorists, depending on your view, form units immediately upon invasion - they would not be of much use if they waited for enemy forces to withdraw, as their function is to disrupt delivery of supplies, demoralise enemy troops, root out collaborators. "Maquis" itself is an old WW II Earth term, itself adopted again by the Resistance from the Corsican Maquisards whose strongholds

were in the maquis (brushland) of Corsica. They were invaluable in the latter days of the War, passing on information, sending wanted people into safety and infiltrating enemy strongholds.

• **Maureen Norton - Live from a large metal cylinder, Grovers Mill**

Re spellcheckers - amongst other alternatives, we found Seasick and Sizzle for Sisko, Puckered and Pickled for Picard, and Cordialness and Cowardliness for Cardassians!

To Emma Garland - Tribbles; how to make one. Get yourself some mohair yarn and make a very tight pompom. When you have finished, brush it! However, if you want a 'live' one, try a long-haired hamster.

Has anyone noticed the pyramids on the tables in Ten-forward? They look remarkably like the ioniser that my mum bought from QVC!

Finally, I am hoping to get to Alton Towers for G-force, so if anyone sees me being pushed around in my chariot by a bored-looking husband and accompanied by two teenage yobs, please say hello. While the boys are on Nemesis, I shall be looking for the nearest Nexus.

• **Irena Hradecka - Prague, The Czech Republic**

First, I'd like to thank Anike Bissinger, Clare Finkel, John Stevens and Nanaki Kaur for their statements about their favourite ST race. I appreciate your help. Your answers confirm my opinion that there are fans of every race in IDIC.

To Clare Finkel - I'm very pleased that you expressed your opinion that Vulcans aren't as boring and perfect as many people seem to think. I fully agree with this.

To Gloria Fry - You are right that I wasn't a member of IDIC in October 1993. However, I didn't object to supporting an animal charity, but to 'showing off' in PDSA shops.

Forgive me my fault about Vulcan fans

being shy. I shouldn't judge Vulcan fans from England since I know only a few of them. I believe your opinion is more objective and I accept it.

To John Stubbley - I esteem your evaluation of my article. It's encouraging to know that at least one person found that article interesting in a way.

If you don't mind, I would like to support your suggestion of different 'types' of Vulcans. You are completely right about it - there are many 'types' of Vulcans.

• **Gratiennne Vandekerckhove - Belgium**

Re Vulcan security officer - I'd like to add my two cents worth. It would be totally illogical to assume that Vulcan would be without any means to defend itself. If the concept of a standing defence force is abhorrent Vulcan would still have found a way to ensure the safety of its people.

Re William Shatner's Movie Memories. I thought it funny to send in this tidbit showing how different people can view a certain word. I saw a review about his book before I actually read it and I found myself particularly intrigued with its reference to his 'ego'. which was seen negatively. To put it blandly. I looked high and low and couldn't find a thing showing an overblown ego. A self-assurance that can cross the line to arrogance, definitely. A strong sense of self worth, humour, an ability to laugh at oneself, utter professionalism, but no overblown ego.

Re Classic Trek. Outdated? Outmoded?? Granted the setting isn't as sophisticated as in Next Gen or the following series, but the topics were as real then as they are now; human nature doesn't change that much. We still make the same mistakes and hopefully learn from them (no preaching intended). If Star Trek isn't about humanity what is it all about, then?

To Kathleen Glancy - Yes, I wrote 'Flamish'. Should have double-checked it. My mistake. On the subject of a mind link; there is nothing to support a theory that it is possible, but neither is there one where it isn't. If nature provides for telepathy in a race

it's normal to develop it, whether it's in the form of a mind link or of an awareness or whatever you want to call it - how else could Spock have known about the death of the Intrepid crew? If it all comes down to personal preferences I for one prefer to believe in its possibility.

• **Lesley Arrowsmith - Nr Brecon, Powys**

Firstly, an apology to anyone who might have written to me at The Darren, Llanigon. Unfortunately, we had to move shortly after I placed the advert for Shuttlecraft SF, and my ex-landlord has been withholding my mail. I'm not at all happy about this, but there's not a lot I can do about it. Please write to me c/o The Victorian Bookshop, Backfold, Hay-on-Wye.

To Clare Finkel - Re IDIC. That's a good point about bigots and murderers. I think the thing about bigots, etc, is that they are closing their minds from infinite diversity and thus not respecting other beings' freedoms. Thus the Serbs, for instance, are not accepting that their neighbours can be different, and that has led to 'ethnic cleansing'. A Vulcan would probably accept that the Serbs had that point of view, while disagreeing very strongly with them putting it into practice against the Bosnians and Muslims.

To Kathleen Glancy You're quite right about Vulcan security officers. I hadn't considered Sarek in Journey to Babel.

• **Waltraud Zucha-Glass - Zollkofen, Switzerland**

It's easy to guess why the NCC 1701-D was destroyed in Generations. They have been selling the 1701-D model kits for years now. It must have been a frustrating situation for the marketing specialists. By crashing the 1701-D they made sure of being able to make even more money by selling the 1701-E kit through the next film. And new 1701-E blueprints, photos, computer games, key rings, etc, etc.

Re captains beaming down on landing parties... I am glad that Vered Gilad gave us some very clever arguments for their going down, but I also admit that basically I just

love Kirk to go first!

To Kathleen Glancy - Spock didn't mind meld with anybody in Whom Gods Destroy (although it would probably have done Garth a lot of good!); I think you mean the mind meld with Van Gelder in Dagger of the Mind. As for the 'link' between Kirk and Spock, I like Kay Stagg's interpretation of it's best - an 'awareness' of each other.

To Neil T Barrett - You have mentioned one of my favourite books, How Much for Just the Planet? Humour of the finest kind, I'd say. Do you have any more information about the book or John M Ford? Why isn't he writing ST novels any more?

• **Jackie Marshall - Norfolk**

Right, let me nail my colours to the mast! *I like Julian Bashir*. Furthermore, I refuse to believe that I, and a like-minded friend, are the only ones out there who do. So please could someone explain to me where all the Bashir merchandise is? So far all I've been able to purchase is one miserly postcard! I can't even find a Bashir bookmark! I have two theories:

a) lots of people also think Julian is cute, hence any merchandise more exciting than postcards sells out before ever I arrive, or b) I am wrong and nobody else thinks Julian is cute so there isn't any merchandise available *other* than postcards.

Oh, surely it's not b)! Can anyone out there help?

• **Lt-Cdr K'ehleyn tai Koloth, Officer Commanding IKV Dark Mirror, Quadrant Commander (England) Khemorex Klinzhai.**

To Kaz Dracklon, Hello there. Nice to see a fellow Klingon about.

To Peter Benei - I did not say that we were ungrateful for the assistance the Terrans have given us. Some of your ideas we find quite...amusing. It is, however, perfectly possible to keep our way of life and let you keep yours, is that not, after all, the principle of IDIC?

Jay Stevensen - There are a small group of thick-headed Terrans (everybody knows

one or two) who might pass for Klingons on a dark night, but don't make the mistake of tarring them with the same brush as you do us - we've got the real heads for a head-butting contest! And anyway, we're not all heartless warriors - my Ops Officer does watercolour painting in her spare time and my First Officer keeps tropical fish.

Your comment about killing harmless beautiful animals for sport. Humans aren't the only Earth species which kills for fun. I believe that your foxes and mink do much the same. And that truly Klingon of all Terran animals, the cat. There is something noble and magnificent about seeing a cat leap 4 feet straight up and catch a bird in mid-air, even if it is just the look of pride when it lands again with the bird in its mouth. You have a game called cat-and-mouse I believe. How do you think it got its name?

The Klingon ritual hunt (Birthright II) is a test of a warrior. But even some Terran societies have ritual hunts. The Masai of Kenya test young men by sending them to hunt a lion; the Inua of Greenland hunt the black bear; the Plains Indians hunted the bald eagle and the Qheshwa of the Andes hunt the condor. All these creatures are symbols of power to those who chase them - to catch one is a sign of virility. The Bushman ritual hunt is a test of a shaman; he must kill every animal he meets and take one bone from its body. This appears to be a waste of good meat to me!!!! Should you wish to continue this outside the pages of IDIC you'll find me at "Starship Ch'illik'utu" (address in Taruka Q's letter).

• Sally Woods - Cuckoofield Lane, Mulbarton, Norwich, Norfolk

Firstly to Adam North, here's that address.

To Raymond Spencer - Favourite episodes. OT - 1) Mirror Mirror 2) City on the Edge of Forever 3) Turnabout Intruder 4) Savage Curtain) Galileo 7; TNG - 1) Lower Decks (excellent) 2) Best of Both Worlds I & II (pity Cmdr Shelby wasn't retained) 3) Dark Page (1st ST episode that made me cry) 4) Pre-emptive Strike (excellent Ro story) 5) Disaster; DS9 - 1) The Siege 2) Dramatis

Personae 3) Bloodoath 4) Move Along Home 5) Duet.

To those concerned - I loved Generations, I loved the Enterprise's spectacular crash landing and as this was a TNG film, it was only right that Kirk died passing the baton (so to speak) to Picard. I myself would have gone to see the film regardless of who was in it. This was TNG, and it's time to move on and expand beyond DS9 and Voyager. We don't want Star Trek to die just because its creator has; carry on, Rick, keep up the good work!

• Matthew Deegan - Bournemouth

To Matthew Hemsley - My favourites are Chekov, Data, Dax, and from Voyager Tom Paris.

To Rory Smith - The episode was Q-Who and was in the second season of TNG.

To Maureen Norton - It's surprising how many names are the same in Star Trek. For example, in Voyager, is the new communications officer Harry Kim related to Luisa Kim, the terraforming scientist from Velara III (Home Soil)? The father of the half Human/half Klingon chief engineer B'elanna Torres could be Lt Torres, the conn officer Q froze in Encounter at Farpoint!

To Annette Bohm - SPOILER ALERT Bareil is killed off in Life Support, but it is a very clever episode, which for once shows Bashir as a three-dimensional character!

I, along with 5000 other people, went to the Generations convention. Wasn't Michael Dorn excellent? If his acting jobs run out, he has it made as a stand-up comedian. Rick Berman turned out to be an unexpectedly wonderful guest, too; his talk was enthralling, question answering honest - and well done to him for bringing a certain Voyager tape with him.

DS9 is certainly going from strength to strength. The Search was superbly written, the House of Quark very funny and Civil Defence has to be one of the best Trek stories ever.

Voyager's Caretaker has to be the best pilot so far, from the titles (they make TNG's look positively plastic) to the character interaction and even a visit to Deep Space 9. The scope for the series is enormous, with plenty of chances to "...boldly go where no one has gone before". I've watched Parallax, Time and Again, Phage and The Cloud - all good science fiction stories, showing that Voyager's first season is far better than TNG's.

Lastly, to anyone living in or around the Bournemouth area, I highly recommend the USS Excalibur meetings. They usually have three video rooms (two showing Trek and one showing season 2 X-files and Babylon 5), a well-stocked dealers' room, competitions and prizes, all for £1.50. The meetings are very popular, with around 200 people turning up. To find out more, write to USS Excalibur, Anne Lindrup, Five Elms, Holtwood, Nr Wimbourne, Dorset BH21 7DT.

• **Neil Saff, Leaping Through Time, Will I Ever Get Home?**

To Michael Sadler - Re the Kaferian apple pip debate. Consider the following facts: 1) the instability of the volcanic upper-mantle of the Kaferian home-world; 2) the planet's high gravity caused by its unusual density and irregular orbit; 3) the heavy nitrogen/carbon atmosphere. As you can clearly see, these are factors which would almost certainly account for herbaceous mutation - ie. pipless fruit. I don't doubt the apple once had pips, way back in pre-history. The Kaferian apple probably lost its pips during the planet's Cretaceous period.

To Paul Taylor - What are you doing under the fridge? When I have the urge to hide under a domestic appliance, I usually opt for the oven - it's a lot warmer. Here's another saucy saucer scenario for your impressive portfolio: Q catches it and challenges the Squire of Gothos to a game of frisbee.

But seriously folks: how do YOU eat your Tospar eggs? I like to slurp 'em.

• **Julie Evans, Flat 1, 31 Newsham Drive, Liverpool, Merseyside L6 7UG**

I would like to thank everyone for their kind comments regarding my cartoons. I'm very pleased with their popularity and grateful to Janet for giving me space in the pages of IDIC. As is probably apparent by now, I'm a particular fan of Data and Lore and TNG in general. I've never seen DS9 or Voyager, but Voyager sounds good from everything I've read about it so far, and I was impressed with what I saw at the RAH. That was a weekend I'll never forget!

Special thanks to David Styles for actually wanting to buy artwork from me. If this trend continues, I'll be able to stop buying lottery tickets (....naah....)

Anyway, thanks again to everyone. I'll be at Sol III and look forward to meeting several of my buddies... Glyn Holland, hide your leather jacket! Yes folks, Brent Spiner touched this woman. Look out for a hyperactive blonde with a huge grin, and quite possibly a large hole in her left shoulder and the inscription 'Jules was 'ere'....

• **David Hall - Ashington, Northumberland**

It appears that every time I write to IDIC I'm asking the odd question or two, and this time is no exception, and whilst I apologize if the following two points have previously raised and duly answered in issues past, I was however wondering if anyone could possibly speculate as to:

a) Why Quark does not have the "green thing" at the back of his head that other of his species have?

b) Given that the end credits inform us that photography was carried out with Panavision Cameras and Lenses, and as Panavision is the noted Widescreen film process that superseded Cinemascope due to its improved anamorphic lens, does this mean that these very programs are actually filmed in widescreen, but screened not in this manner, rather in what is today referred to as "full screen" presentation.

- Confused, any words on these two issues would be most welcome.

• Anne Larivire - France

To Helen Thompson (P 20) - No, you're not the only person in IDIC who thinks TNG is funny. I love CT, TNG and DS9 and I'm looking forward to Voyager (it feels like the starship Voyager will be back in Federation space before the episodes reach France, though!) I agree with Michael Johnson (P 27) that people shouldn't always be comparing the series. They're all Star Trek, but they also have their specificity, and the differences are what makes each series a new pleasure. They're not just a copy of the one before.

To Martin Helsdon (P 23) - You're right, there's no reason why Vulcans should be any more uniform in their beliefs than Humans. In fact, I've often wondered why races other than Humans in Star Trek are not allowed to show a little more ... diversity! All Vulcans look the same, all Romulans look the same, and all Klingons, all Ferengi, all Andorians, etc... Tuvok in Voyager is a welcome break of that rule, at last (well, more or less).

To Lindsay Wright (P 25) - I totally share your view about the interplay between the characters in TOS.

To Jason Wells (P 28) - DS9 is not "very unTrek". They may not be "going" where no man has gone before, but they're standing where no man has stood before, on the doorway to another quadrant, and the unknown comes to them nearly every day. I firmly believe that the Trek spirit is not merely a matter of sailing from star to star, but to be where anything new can happen (remember Doctor Bashir's dream of working "on the frontier") and most of all what is definitely Trek is the way the characters face the unknown and the unexpected and deal with it.

To Clare Finkel (P 29/30) - I agree with you about Vulcans, they're not as boring and perfect as many people seem to think, and they do have to struggle to maintain peace and logic. However, I do not agree that IDIC cannot mean "infinite" diversity. I think you're looking at it the wrong way. While bigots, murderers, liars, etc... should not be approved of, they are a part of the universe,

and it would be a mistake not to acknowledge them as such. Also, I think the infinite diversity referred to in this philosophy has more to do with races and cultures than with individual behaviour.

To Damian Griffiths (P 30) - Re the episode "Clues". I agree about the date problem, but I suppose it doesn't matter, as long they're not able to find the place again. And about Tuvok, yes, I also noticed that he looked like the navigator on the Enterprise B in Generations. Another mystery open to investigation!

To Gloria Fry (P 30) - I'm sorry to hear you feel that the media spotlight on ST lately has bordered on overkill. That may be the case in the UK, but in France I think it has, as usual, been under-advertised and underrated. I "chanced" upon places where Generations was advertised, but the media were very discreet about it.

To Steve Farmer (P 35) - I don't think that DS9 wouldn't have reached our screens if Gene Roddenberry had still been alive. I agree with Elaine Henderson (P 35) that there is a "Trek trademark" and DS9 definitely has it.

To Tony McNally (P 41) - I "almost" entirely agree with your conclusion that "there's no such thing as bad Trek, just that some's better than others". Almost, but not quite, as I remember a few novels I found really badly written, or containing facts I found hard to believe. But of course, as they say, it's all in the eye of the beholder.

To Mr D E Evans (P 47) - Re NCC. You raise an interesting issue : should the CT series hold the only "truths" about Star Trek, or should we take other sources into account? I'd say that at the stage Star Trek has reached now, it is getting increasingly difficult to state "This is fact, this is fiction". The more it develops, the more contradictions or discrepancies appear, and ultimately I think it is up to each of us to sort out what we believe is fact, and what we don't want to retain as such. why should something be "studio approved" to be "true"? Star Trek has gone far beyond the grasp of the studios or of

Gene Roddenberry himself. I feel sorry for those who resent that fact, but I don't think Star Trek could have stayed within the original parameters, any more than a child could remain forever under his parents' control. So what does it matter that NCC originally meant nothing? If you think it stands for Naval Construction Contract, well, it does!

Re: Star Trek Generations

To Jennifer Cobbing (P 22) - I agree that Generations felt more like an extra long episode, and that Captain Kirk's death was botched (far less moving than Spock's death in WOK, although I felt a little something the first time I saw Generations). I think McDowell was meant to be a madman, not a real "baddy". The book is very explicit about that. Indeed I think that if the film had been more like the book it would have been much better. As for destroying the Enterprise, it made for spectacular scenes on the screen, but it leaves us wondering what is going to happen to the crew now, and somehow I'm not sure we're going to like the answer, if ever there's one (to me, the only acceptable answer would be to reunite them on an Enterprise-E, but then why destroy D?).

To Raj Badhan (P 33) - I did notice the mistake in Generations about the colour of Klingon blood, and it's all the more surprising as in the book, B'Etor "frowned at the violet stain", so there's no mistake there!

To Nicole Comtet (P 36) - I understand your feelings about Kirk's death in Generations, but the fact is that few races are immortal and we all know our favourite characters have to die some day. Of course it is rather painful to have them do so on the screen, but isn't it one of the lessons Star Trek taught us, to be able to face hard facts and deal with them? At least, as Kirk himself says in the film, he died "making a difference". I think that's one of the most beautiful sentences in Star Trek, and who wouldn't want that as an epitaph? Anyway, as Barbara Ellams very beautifully says (Generations Premiere - P 61) : "Starship Captains never die - they just grow in legends and they shine more brightly". As for Spock, I don't think

he's been "left stranded and forgotten in the Romulan Empire". He might very well be back, in an episode or a written story (yes, novels, short stories, etc... are part of Star Trek, too!)

To Sarah Irons (P 66) - How can you resent Kirk's death and at the same time say that "they lived as one, they should have died as one"! Thanks a lot for all of them, I'd rather like to think you didn't realize what you were actually saying. All of them dying at the same time would simply be unbearable. Something like what I felt when I saw the saucer of the Enterprise D explode in the shock wave from the Veridian star. Horror, and then, no, it cannot be true. But of course, it wasn't.

• Nanaki Kaur - Birmingham

I've just watched the ST:Voyager pilot, and it's brilliant! I love the title sequence and music. The characters are likeable and I think the female Captain is great. Did you know that the helmsman is Thomas Eugene Paris. Nice touch.

I just watched The Jem'Hadar recently. Do the DS9 producers/writers think the ST audience is dumb, or something? I mean, when Quark explains to Sisko why Humans don't like the Ferengi "because we remind you of what you used to be like" (or words to that effect) - c'mon! Most of us figured that one out! One thing I like about Star Trek is that it doesn't underestimate its audience's intelligence. I hope it stays that way!

• Richard Hewitt - Ashted, Surrey

To Andrew Merritt - I am 15 years old as well. Re being laughed at because of being a Trekker, I am in the same position as James Keating and I don't usually get any trouble. It's my parents who laugh!

To James Keating - Re Data's one-liners, in the book Balance of Power by Dafydd ab Hugh, Data is asked about his one-liners and admits to doing them on purpose. I think the reason given was that he thought it added to his personality.

Re Sisko lacking this and that - I think the reason for Sisko's personality is that he is

a dad and is actually living with his son. He is a family man and also an excellent commander. In the last newsletter, Ahmet Ali suggested replacing Avery Brooks with Michael Dorn. All I can say to that is a very big NO.

To Peter Benei - Re Tuvok being a Romulan in disguise. I am not sure this would work as it would be too similar to Spock with his Human side conflicting with his Vulcan side. There is a half Klingon/half Human officer anyway, so I expect we will see numerous personality conflicts. Shouldn't Tuvok's name begin with an 'S' to honour Surak?

Re Generations - After I left the cinema for the first time, the adrenalin was still pumping round my body. None of the other movies had given me that feeling. As I looked back on the film, I realised how little Kirk's death had moved me. The second time around I had just seen the making of it, and all the SFX seemed really fake, especially the crash sequence, but Kirk's death **did** actually move me. I do not recommend to anyone that they watch the making, it completely ruins your perception of the SFX. However, do get the soundtrack - it's excellent.

To anyone who believes that Generations could have been better with Gene - Gene was opposed to ST II, III, IV, V and VI (see Shatner's Movie Memories) and was basically ignored during the production of the films, so I do not think he would have made much of a difference.

I think maybe for the next movie, Jonathan Frakes should direct. Leonard Nimoy seemed successful as an actor/director and all the TNG actors seem to think Frakes is one of the best directors they have had. Any comments?

• Edward Woo - I'm not a Moon Shuttle Conductor

In Generations, Kirk is reported killed when the Enterprise-B is hit by the energy ribbon. We have a slight problem with continuity since in Relics Scotty says "I knew Captain Kirk and the Enterprise would rescue me."

If the Enterprise-D is wrecked beyond repair after its crash, I think it should be blown up so no-one else can get any existing technology still aboard. And if in the next film we have the Enterprise-E, can we still have a galaxy class starship, or must it be a new class of ship?

It is rumoured that a second professional Generations con is planned for the same venue and time in 1996. Unfortunately this could affect the Starbase 96 con which is run by Leeds Starfleet. I attended the 93 & 94 ones and they were great. They had to postpone the 95 one due to Generations. I hope the committee can put on Starbase 96 - it is perfectly timed in January and is always friendly. I have no hesitation in registering for this con and I hope others do so if it goes ahead. There is no denying, though, professional cons have arrived. A recent Times article hinted ST cons are profitable as well as interesting - in the business section.

I believe one or two professional cons will occur in the UK each year. The success will depend on the percentage of hard core fans who attend. I would say the attendance would be made up by 40% real fans, another 40% of new fans and 20% as passing fans who are in fandom only as a passing trend. The success will also depend on the video watchers as there aren't any at such a con, only guests and dealers. I hear most of the dealers at Generations were from the US with highly inflated prices (changing the \$ sign to £).

Also the number of cons this year has been rising. Will it be sustainable in future years, and can people afford them at the current rate of increase?

Where do tribbles swim? - In tributaries, of course.

Could Voyager set up colonies on new planets as it tries to get home?

What is a tribble's favourite dart score? - Tribble twenty.

To Vivien Little - Imagination Station is

a small SF/comic shop in a shopping arcade along Botchergate /London Rd in Carlisle, near the railway station (there are a lot of second hand bricabrac shops there too). A man called Tommy runs it - he knows me. As to Brent going into public service, let's hope he doesn't suffer the problems George Takei encountered!

To Meg Wright, Ahmet Ali, Michael Johnson and Peter Benei - Sorry to disagree, but I fully support Benjamin Sisko as DS9 commander. To replace him with Riker is a negative step. I couldn't see Riker taking such an assignment anyway; he said his main ambition was to Captain a Starship.

As to Odo being replaced by Worf - again I have to disagree. Odo is more flexible in his approach than Worf, and knows the Bajorans and Cardassians in detail.

To Rory Smith - We do need more aliens, though DS9 has more than TNG, and Voyager should encounter aliens all the time if they are over 70 years from the alpha quadrant.

To Stephen Daniels - Wolf 359 is a red dwarf star 7.6 light years from Earth, in the Leo constellation. *[Ed - Thanks also to Jackie Comben for info on Wolf 359.]*

To Alan Stephen - Because of their interest in ST, thousands of people have become engineers, scientists, doctors, etc. Space and science technology have advanced too.

To Simon Robinson - Nana Visitor was in an episode of LA Law I was lucky to see.

To Marie Park - I cannot agree with you that Generations is worth more than 2 viewings. It's very poor (like ST:TMP and ST:V).

Someone asked about a Man From Uncle club. Try J Felton, Cloudbase, 54 St Mary's Rd, Leyton, London E10 5RB.

To Gaile Wood - N/L 31, P50 has Roger Neal's address for a set of 3-D chess rules. Hope to see you at SOL III.

• Jennifer Blanchard - Godalming

My word for Cardassians - reptilian. (I'm sure they are cold-blooded in every sense of the word.) My word for Ferengi - Thatcherism!

To Catherine Carter - You are not alone. I, too, want to keep the illusion intact by not seeing the actors. The Trek characters are so vivid and complete, I don't want the 'real' people intruding! I also have favourite 'versions' of the characters: Spock 2nd season; Data 2nd & 3rd seasons, Picard 4th & 5th; Sulu and Scotty in the films; but Troi and Uhura are perfect right through.

• Vered Gilad - 13 Churchill St, Pardess Hagdud, Netanya, Israel 42221

ST:Generations (seen on Israeli premier night, 31st March) At last, I can't believe it, after waiting so long and with great suspense, never knowing: will we see STG or not? Until actually seeing the 'Coming soon' I didn't really believe that after missing out on the last 3 ST movies, the Israeli fans are going to see ST on the big screen again.

I wasn't sure I'd like the film. I was worried I knew too much about it, even though I tried to avoid information about it (thanks for the spoiler alerts!) I was appalled by the idea of killing Kirk. I wrote to Paramount via the OFC saying that ST is 20th century mythology, and why should they kill our heroes. Why bother bringing Kirk to the 24th century just to kill him? (I got no answer...) I would have preferred a TNG movie with no connection whatsoever to TOS as long as the original crew kept going on - at least in my mind (logically I know they're just human and they'll die, but at least I won't be present.)

After all this, I had an excellent feeling after the movie ended. I decided that the thing that did it to me was the humour. At last, after 7 years, TNG was funny and not so dry and official, and if gaining some humour was worth finishing its regular broadcast on TV, then it was the right thing to do (I wasn't happy when it ended, believe me).

The other reasons for enjoying the film: I did succeed in not finding out too much

about it, and it's great to go into the unknown, and yes, the SFX, especially the crashing of the saucer section (I can't believe hardly anyone died, logically speaking, especially from the main characters. Not that I want any of them to die, just a thought...)

My friend Marcia pointed out to me the following continuity error re the Ferengi joke during the Farpoint mission: Didn't the Federation (ie Enterprise) encounter the Ferengi for the first time in The Last Outpost, and so they couldn't have known much about them during Farpoint?

Re Data's emotions I don't think giving Data emotions will turn him into an ordinary character and by that he loses his charm. It was time for a change (a bold one) and it added depth to Data. As an android he can cope with many situations, physically, that as humans we can not. With feelings, will he be able to cope with them emotionally? Data has to learn to be brave, tactful, deal with envy and people's anger towards him. How will he react with all his power? There are so many possibilities there, that it opens a completely new dimension. It's like Data was born blind and got sight. It's a whole new experience, and I'm happy we'll have the chance to share it with him.

To Maureen Norton, P 19 - ship carpet vacuuming. Maybe they have carpets made out of dust repellent material (think of Back to the Future II). Re replication of uniforms. I remember reading somewhere about this in one of the OT novels, I can't remember which one. If it is so, I wonder what they're going to do on Voyager. Is Neelix going to do the laundry as well?

To Alberto Gorin - Hello there. You asked the Israeli member to write. I'm writing, but I'm not sure I'm the member you meant (we are now 2 Israeli IDIC members, the other being Alon Kirsh - Hi, Alon!) Anyway, did you want me to write directly to you, or to the N/L? Is there anything special you'd like to know? I don't mind writing (actually I overdo it, beware) just that it's easy with some sort of opening. I can say one thing, we certainly have a very similar situation and it would be interesting to

compare notes.

To Raj Badhan, P33 - It's pink - not purple (never mind, I always have pink/purple arguments with people) but anyhow, yes, it's a different colour. My friend Marcia pointed it out to me. Maybe the Klingons have a faster evolutionary rate (this may also explain the Klingon forehead in such a short time). Maybe the blood change was caused by some sort of radiation from the Praxis explosion or maybe each clan (or whatever it is) has a minor difference in blood colour which varies basically between pink/purple/red and any other related colour (or maybe it was just a @#%\$&* blunder... No... can't be...)

• **Annette Bohm - Langenberg, Germany**

To Irena Hradecka - I don't think I would want my soul being 'stored' either. (Anyway it should be a bit crowded in that Hall of Thoughts, shouldn't it?)

To Jason Wells - I do not feel DS9 is 'lacking the ST aura' (that's only my opinion) but I think you are right. Seems as if now, after DS9, it's "back to the roots"; a new series, a ship, unknown areas of the universe, more adventures with aliens we've never met before. I do certainly not want to criticise TOS, TNG or Voyager (which I am looking forward to seeing) but I feel 'they' should have given DS9 some more time. And about that "To boldly stay in one place for a whole series" - sorry, but I don't have a problem with that, honestly. I feel DS9 is just as much Trek as TNG, and I also think that you cannot really compare the ST series as each has/had its own time and background. I hope they will not cancel DS9.

To Julie Evans - I liked your cartoon about Data a lot.

• **Tracy Saunders - 27 Glenwood Ave, Westcliff on Sea Essex SS0 9DJ**

To Taruka Q - I thought I would write you in the N/L in case I don't get a chance to write you beforehand. First of all, thank you for your lovely gift of White Cloud's tribe! And thank you for the information. I shall write as soon as possible because I have been in touch with my Guide again. If there is

anyone else out there who wants a copy of what White Cloud has written through me then please feel free to contact me at the above address.

After watching Generations I can understand how all Shatner/Kirk fans feel about the death of Kirk. But don't you think his death was worthy of his name?

After watching The Outcast a few weeks back, I must say that I thought that was Star Trek at its best! The 'gay' minority are given a new deal in this country and overseas as well. You could just feel the sorrow that Soren was experiencing because she couldn't go with Riker. It is just a matter of ignorance and I do think that this episode brought to a lot of people that gays have feelings just like anyone else. I thought the subject wasn't delved into enough - maybe they couldn't have a member of the main crew that was gay. What do other fans think?

In answer to everyone who is discussing Vulcans, Humans, etc. I have always been fascinated by Darwin's theory of evolution and think that is what people get to look for here. For instance, as we all know, we originate from apes, Klingons are from dogs (please correct me if I am wrong) but I don't know what the Vulcans originate from, maybe someone can enlighten me. There is also the Gorn, that originated from lizards. *[Sheila - some fan writers have suggested feline descent for Vulcans, but I don't know where they got that from.]*

It seems to me that it is only by chance that the dominant species originated from a certain 'relative'. I suppose the best way to study the ways and behaviour of each of the dominant species is to study their closest relatives. For instance, the chimpanzee has its own politicians and they behave similarly to ourselves - and they are our closest relatives.

• **Leslie Moyes - 22 Carleton Cres, Woodside, Glenrothes, Fife KY7 6AN**

I recently saw DS9's Defiant. It's brilliant and I recommend it highly! I'm really looking forward to the 2-part Garak/Odo episode - it sounds terrific, as does the Mirror one (move over Crossover). This

season looks like being DS9's definitive one.

I have not seen any Voyager yet, but I am reading the book and it's really good, but has the bubble burst already? I hear it's already dropping in the ratings in the US.

To Catherine Hill - The X-files is brilliant. Write to me and I will give you info on a great fan club for it.

To that Cardassian re Genesis. It's a great fun episode and that's all. A bit of a change to you guys and your endless politics. :-) Don't take offence, just free your mind and have a bit of fun for a change. Just let go. It's only entertainment, after all!

Take care, and I look forward to all your views.

• **Suzanne Vann - Christchurch, Dorset**

To Damian Griffiths - I, too, collected the vouchers in the Sun and after dutifully arranging them, sped down into my local Woolworths. I managed to get a video, but was told that more than half had already gone, just a few hours from when the Sun came out. I'm sorry you didn't manage to get a copy - I'm sure you're not the only disappointed fan out there, for what little consolation that is.

One video you should look out for is '40 years of SF television' (I got my copy for £4.99 at my local branch of Omnibooks). It features a tribute to Star Trek and some previously unseen Classic Trek bloopers - it's almost like a Trek You've Been Framed in parts, although don't be put off by that description!

Did anyone see Walter's second appearance as B5's Bester? It's nice to see him portraying a bad guy for a change, although I still miss Chekov. It looks like we have ages yet before Classic Trek comes back on TV, especially since we ought (hopefully) to get DS9 soon.?

Lastly, does anyone know of any Star Trek software for the Archimedes/Risc PC? I haven't heard of anything except the 25th Anniversary CD, which I still haven't got

despite heavy grovelling on my part. [Janet - *I have a Risc PC and don't know of any Star Trek software for it, including the 25th Anniversary CD. Having said that I have just received the 486 PC card so things might start looking up :-)*]

• **Keren Breen - Neath, West Glamorgan**

First, some rather sad news. I wrote in the last N/L about the first meeting of The Boarding Party. Unhappily, the second meeting on April 9th was probably the last. Attendance was way down; promises of advance publicity just had not materialised, and while the event was a social success from the point of view of the attendees (catering had been turned over to Neelix and the tea was much improved) it was a financial disaster from the organisers' viewpoint. In fact, they have been left with a debt of several hundred pounds for which they are personally responsible. (Lottery winners should send cheques to Andrew Spencer, please!) People who had said beforehand that they would back the event in the event of a loss suddenly found themselves unable to help. Any future meetings will be much more low-key - in someone's front room, perhaps. A great shame.

Words of advice. Do *not* watch Generations with a seven-year-old Kirk fan. I did - and his emotion chip malfunctioned all the say home. Loudly. And he wouldn't even mention Trek for days. He's all right now, though; I've made him a Klingon sash of honour out of rug canvas, silver paint and ribbon and he's taught himself to say "Feed me!" in Klingon.

To Eunice Pearson - If your daughter's friends get too scornful of her love of Trek, move to the Rhondda and enrol her in my class. She sounds like a nice child to me. My class are used to the label "James T Kirk - Commanding Officer" blu-tacked to my desk; however, we're being inspected in the autumn (yuk!) so I'll have to take it down then...

To Alex Blakeney - I can understand your desire for feedback about your work, but think of us poor illustrators! I have seen reviews of zines in which my drawings

appeared and no-one mentions the illos. I can only assume that the reviewer is being 'kind' and *hates* my work but doesn't want to hurt my feelings by saying so. I have retired, hurt, and taken to doing paintings which I have given away to my friends. (One sold in the charity auction at the Boarding Party, though!) *(Sheila - Keren, you can't retire! We like your artwork - we need your artwork! But in all honesty, the only people who ever comment on artwork seem to be other artists!)*

To Brenda Allan - I know people who would consider being called a "Cardi" a killing insult. Hereabouts, a "Cardi" describes a person who has characteristics allegedly possessed by some natives of Ceredigion. Some residents of Caerffyrddin get very upset by "Cardis" or being mistaken for one!

To anyone - Sisko is growing on me. A bit. In the 3rd season episodes I've seen he's come into his own. And I like Wesley, anyway; he can't help being the boy wonder.

To the committee - The members of the Swansea Cult TV society were *extremely* impressed by the N/L. ("You get this six times a year for £8? And it's *always* this big? Wow!")

• **Anne-Marie Flowers - Glasgow**

Re the Earl Grey Commemorative Tea Service - Surely this should have been given to the scriptwriter, not Patrick Stewart?

Re Voyager - It occurs to me that Tuvok is likely to go through pon farr some time. How will he manage in the delta quadrant?

To Nanaki Kaur - You will find R/T stories in the Orion Press zines Idylls and Number One.

Re Wesley - Surely he's the evolutionary step Q was looking for at the end of AGT?

• **Russell Witheyman - Crawley, W. Sussex**

I am probably one of the last people to say anything on Generations, but I thought I had to say something. Although the film had

good SFX, the excellent Malcolm McDowell and William Shatner, the story was a wee bit on the average side. I agree with Marina Sirtis when she said they'd done better episodes. It wasn't all bad, though, the scenes between Shatner and Stewart were good, the opening sequence aboard the Enterprise-B was highly enjoyable and the destruction of the Enterprise was well done (why do they have to keep blowing up the Enterprise?

Another thing I didn't enjoy, though, was Data's emotion chip. Although this was a good idea, the results were very obvious and weren't really that funny. On the whole I'd say Generations was OK, not the worst (ST:V) or the best either (ST:VI).

One more thing I must say about it - did anyone else think that it just seemed like a big budget episode? It didn't really have that movie feel to it. 7 out of 10; roll on film No 2!

• **Jean Perrin - Burton upon Trent, Staffs**

Miles O'Brien is usually called 'Chief' rather than an actual rank. In TNG his collar pips suggested a Lieutenant; in DS9 he only has the one pip of an Ensign. Has he been demoted and if so, why? I should have thought he'd want promotion as Keiko had to put her career on hold.

To Maureen Norton - I always thought there was no dust in space so hoovering wouldn't be necessary. That's one reason I am so eager to get there. Am I going to be disappointed?

Although the basic idea of Star Trek is 'to boldly go where no one has gone before', both TOS and TNG made very few first contacts; they were always rushing off to answer distress calls from known planets or from people who had been dead for centuries. Perhaps Voyager will finally make some proper first contacts even if they are travelling in the wrong direction.

To the 15-year-olds who get laughed at. I am a 50+ year old who has taken early retirement. Most people think I am suffering from premature senile decay, but I don't care. Star Trek is a whole universe which I am part

of. I spend half my time travelling the stars with Kirk, Picard and Sisko through TV, video and books. If Star Trek gives you as much pleasure in the next 25 years as it has given me in the last 25, what does it matter if a few people have the odd laugh at your expense? Your life will be richer than theirs and I don't mean in the cash sense. I envy you because you may live to see a real Kirk or Picard starting out on their own Star Trek, but I shall not. Don't allow a few non-believers to put you off.

To Nicole Comtet. I agree with your comments about the way no longer wanted characters are disposed of, and it's not just the originals. After his regular run, Wesley takes on a whole new image when he reappears as a guest. First of all we have this fiasco at the Academy when a cadet is killed. From years spent on the bridge of the Enterprise in the constant company of senior officers, he is far too mature to get involved in this type of escapade and even if the cadet hadn't been killed, they could never have performed the stunt on the day because it was illegal and they would still have been court-martialled. Then in a later episode off he goes with the Traveller, which was even more unbelievable; he was far too committed to Starfleet in general and the Enterprise in particular to just go off into the wide blue yonder. In an earlier episode - Menage a Troi - he had assumed that when he finished the Academy he would return to the Enterprise and he was horrified to realise he might be posted elsewhere. And this is the guy they expect us to believe would quit without even qualifying?

As for Spock going off to Romulus - his whole life was dedicated to science. He only took on the job as First Officer in addition to his post as Science Officer, he continued to wear a blue science shirt when he must have qualified to wear command gold, and he had no desire to be a captain because the responsibilities would have interfered with his scientific work. This man would not have gone anywhere as an official ambassador, never mind as a renegade, however altruistic his motives.

I see the troubles over William

Shatner's so-called ego have not yet bit the dust. With TNG all the principals are roughly equal and get episodes devoted to them, but with TOS there is a gulf a mile wide between the three main characters of Kirk, Spock and McCoy and the Rest of Scott, Sulu, Chekov, Uhura and Chapel. You notice straight away that all the Rest have written or said unpleasant things about WS but both Nimoy and Kelley, not to mention Patrick Stewart, have said he's all right. Kirk met many aliens, but perhaps Shatner has met the biggest alien of them all - the green-eyed monster.

My favourite non-regular is Alexander. I think he is adorable the way he gazes up at his dad. He's got that bossy boots Worf exactly where he wants him.

• **Alan Stephen - Bridge of Don, Aberdeen**

To Dave Styles - Hey, where's your sense of humour? I don't know about you, but I don't have a warp engine in my back pocket, so getting to Vulcan would pose a problem. I thought you'd come back with some witty repartee, a bon mot we could enjoy and share, like why not a custard pie fight on Altair refereed by Robby the Robot, but instead your reply was, "Let's have a pint". Sorry, pal - I don't like beer (it makes you too aggressive), I much prefer a glass of 10-year-old malt or some fine wine. Why don't we share a bottle of Chateau Picard on Ten-Forward served by what's-her-name with the funny hats?

To Julie - Your cartoons are wonderful, funny and drawn in a nice clear line. I look forward to seeing your next cartoon, and perhaps a collection?

To Meg Wright - I'm always delighted to find another SF fan. My reason for writing was because of so many negative comments in the N/L regarding SF; some ST fans have forgotten where the ideas for ST came from.

I was very sad to read of the passing of Joyce Slater, who along with husband Ken has been promoting SF in this country since the 40s when SF wasn't quite as respectable to enjoy as it is today.

I've been fortunate to see many

episodes of the new series ST:Voyager. While for the most part I've enjoyed them, I can't help but feel that I've seen all this before, especially with the episode Ex Post Facto. Could it be that the ST gravy train has been ridden to the end of the rails? That the competition now on TV (Babylon5 and X-files) has made ST look conservative and safe? I remember when ST:TNG started I couldn't wait to see the latest episode; now with DS9 and Voyager I'm not so bothered, but I can't wait to watch the latest B5 and X-files episode. Do any other members feel the same, or am I just becoming old and jaded?

• **Lynne Baxter - Kew, Reading**

Hi everyone. My company has just put me "on the net" so if anyone would like to correspond then e-mail

lynne.baxter@gbpub.com.uk

I'm off to Orlando at the end of May, so I won't be answering mail until after my return (15 June) unless you get in quick!

The best thing about the Generations film is that I have discovered that my office is full of closet trekkies. We have spent many a lunch hour rehashing the plot, discussing our favourite bits, etc.

Finally, if there are any trekkies in Reading, then would they please say hello to Jonathan, the manager of the early morning Tea Bar near the taxi rank in Reading station (my lovely hubby). If you tell him to live long and prosper then he'll stand you a free cuppa! Klingons get a dish of Gagh.

• **Maggie Symon, Fochabers**

This is what you get for not reading your n/l promptly - answer two at once. These smilies are a great idea; I am very rarely serious, but I feel some people take what I say the wrong way. :-)

Pam Baddeley (n/l 38 p26) - all that 'sensual hand holding' is what makes me think Romulans are psi-null! Either the Romulan Commander was so enamoured with that pointed-eared gentleman in her grasp not to notice Spock wasn't being totally honest with her about Kirk's behaviour, Spock joining the Romulans, or hiding what they were really planning (notice I didn't say

he wasn't drawn to her!) Or she just took him at face value, because she couldn't tell any other way? You would think that the 'sensual hand holding' would initiate some sort of telepathic contact in telepathic races (which is what I think Amanda and Sarek were doing and why she suddenly smiled at him in the end of Babel), so why didn't the Romulan Commander notice Spock was holding back certain things? You can't mean to tell me Spock is that good an actor! :-)

David Styles (n/l 38 p31) - What you said about what we 'know' about Vulcans being fan-created is undoubtedly true, however I never read a zine or many ST books until well after TMP and I remember having 'problems' with the Animated and the TMP novel at the time. So there must be something there to work with. What we saw of Vulcans in the series was second only to Humans, more than any other alien, you would be surprised. Anyway it is fun trying to make what little there is fit together. :-)

Anyone care to take up the challenge and spell out the Vulcan 'facts' in each of the 79 episodes?

John Stubbley (n/l 38 p31) - I am not arguing with you, John! I don't think the Vulcans in the original series had priestesses either! The priestesses almost spontaneously appeared in SFS. I don't agree with the changes I recorded in 'The Changing Face of Vulcan'. I don't think the series in isolation would have priestesses. I am sure - somewhere - I heard Vulcan had never had a God, possibly in the Blish books or one of the Making of ... World of ... books - which made the Shrine (that little Spock's 'cousin' was going to visit) in Yesteryear a little strange to me and Sybok's search for a God he learned about on Vulcan even more so! TPau wasn't a priestess if that is what you are thinking, and it was the Masters of Gol as Irene Hradecka pointed out last newsletter. I think the word you are looking for is Nome, which I have always took to be the same as what Spock and the Space Hippies talked about in Way to Eden; One.

(n/39 p31) - a very sensible suggestion - you are proposing IDIC on

Vulcan! Or are you transferring the New Humans from 'the TMP novel to Vulcans? I may not like them but it is a logical solution to all the different Vulcan types we are suddenly seeing. But I hope you don't mind if we carry on discussing our favourite aliens anyway. :-)

Irene Hradecka (n/l 38 p63) - That's a great idea of a Vulcan theme postbag - if anyone is willing to set it up count me in! :-)

(n/l 39 p28) - This whole Vulcan mysticism thing has hit a problem - our only source for who are priests or masters etc. is the novelisations, and if you can't take the books as fact what's left? So accepting them for the moment - (p275 in my copy of SFS) "TLar, the leader of the Vulcan priesthood ..." I agree, in TMP they were Masters of Gol. Masters of disciplines I can accept - after all logic is a discipline really, telepathy would be a discipline, pain control a discipline. But I don't see why Vulcans have to have a priesthood! That implies (to me) religion, gods and worship, which I have a harder time accepting on Vulcan.

You asked about my view of Katra, well I am not exactly sure. If Katra is the living soul could a Katra go mad being stuck in The Hall of Thought? Or do they interact and develop there? Thereby making this life preparation for the next life the Ancient Egyptians believed? I don't know! If anyone has any better ideas I'd love to hear them. The Katra, itself, I have always thought of as an extension of Vulcan telepathy.

Clare Finkel (n/l 38 p72) - I think I get your point in your 'My Star Trek' article - I think TMP turned everything on its heads, it took me a long time to reconcile (if I ever did) the Vulcans in TMP with what I had gathered from the original series - and I didn't find fandom or zines or the novels till after that, so I can't have got my views of Vulcan from anywhere else but the series and Animated. I can't see my Spock of the series going off to Gol and I have never found a satisfactory story explaining that to me. Something serious must have happened, but what?

Anike Bissenger (n/l 39 p26) - I agree

Vulcans were loyal and would have to follow orders, therefore if by being in the Security Division they are going to get ordered to kill someone against their Vulcan upbringing, would they join Security? It is not logical. A (Vulcan) Security guard can't really stand up and tell his Captain that there is a better way than shooting someone, in the middle of a battle! In the original series they rarely expected Spock to kill but Kirk occasionally orders him to (Devil in the Dark springs to mind). I don't know if it would come down to 'following an order even if they don't agree with it', it would be taking a life - what is more important - an order or a life? Spock still didn't intend killing the Horta despite Kirk's order (Kirk had to countermand him as he instructed the security squad), until Kirk's life was in danger - well some things are more important than upbringing. :-) It became a choice between one life or another life.

Pen Cramphorn (n/139 p46) - We will have to agree to disagree on McCoy teasing Spock about Vulcan mysticism - I still don't think he would! :-) Spock isn't really bothered by Bones calling him a walking computer but he is when Kirk does it (What Are Little Girls ... etc.). I think he takes it as part of his relationship with McCoy. If Bones wanted to hurt Spock wouldn't he drop that tack when he saw it wasn't working? The fact that he carried on means to me it is became a joke between them, a shared experience? I know it is a strange relationship, but friends do develop obscure 'in' jokes between themselves. His 'attacks', if you will, were directed at Spock, not at Vulcan. Bones never teased Spock about Vulcan Telepathy after seeing it in Dagger, or Vulcan Healing Trance (well only in relief), or the prime target of the Vulcan Wedding - he respected them as part of being Vulcan, why would the Vestal Virgins be any different if he knew about them during the series? Neither of them could change Spock's physiology, or would want to, but it did cause McCoy problems from time to time, you must admit; so it was safe to complain about it.

Yeah, I know, but the 'Bahb' suggestions started off as a serious memo on

how to structure Vulcan names - and they are allowed to have fun with them too! To coin a phrase - Are we having fun yet? :-)

To Anyone - the Other Star Trek Exhibition has been delayed, for anyone interested. I am all ready but when I went round to the Museum to confirm things I found out they had moved it back and hadn't told me! It looks like opening on the 12th August now, so I hope I have got back to people who generously offered things before you read this, arranging collection. Watch this space.

• **Stephen Daniels - Smailholm, Near Kelso**

If anyone had been in Edinburgh on the weekend of April 22/23, you could have met James Doohan at the Star Trek Exhibition! He came up on the Friday, and did signings, and talks over the weekend. The queues were around the block again! He was very pleasant, and walked up the queue for autographs shaking hands and chatting to the fans.

I see Playmates have come out with an Enterprise-D that blows up like in the film - sick, sick!

I read that the Enterprise-E is to be much smaller than the D. I think this is a bad move because Picard and crew got a lot of credibility due simply to the fact that they were the crew of the Federation's flagship. The Enterprise-E will have to be pretty spectacular if it is to retain that title.

To Rory Smith (n39 p26) - Q forced a meeting between the Enterprise and the Borg in the 2nd season episode called "Q-Who".

To Paul Taylor (n39 p33) - Terrific alternatives for saucer landings - perhaps they might even have made Generations watchable!

To Judith Taylor (n39 p36) - I seem to recall seeing feathers in a TNG episode, didn't Data turn into a crow and fly about the corridors in the season 6 episode "Birthright"?

To Edward Woo (n39 p38) - I shall look into just how often Data has gone haywire

over the past few years (I wonder if I should include Generations?). I still think he is an android NOT to be trusted ;-)

To Chris Tearne (n39 p40) - I am dying to know *which* episode of TNG Patrick Stewart had bought the video of, can you recall?

Finally, I have now had a chance to reflect on my harsh criticism of Generations, and I have come to realise I meant every word of it. Bilge from start to finish. It was an insulting slap in the face to all the fans who have followed TNG over the past seven years.

• Mike Hazlewood - 1 Twyn-Bedw, Porth, Rhondda CF39 9HR (Federation agent on a secret mission deep inside the Duras sisters' cleavage)

To Steve Farmer - I don't agree with your idea of having photos in the N/L, thus taking up valuable postbag or article space. I think it's OK the way it is and I appreciate the committee's time and effort taken putting it together. Enjoy your holiday, ladies, and welcome to Wales.

Brief word on Generations - I too thought it was like an extended TV episode (and I did enjoy it) but Kirk's death just didn't work for me. I felt more moved when he 'died' at the beginning of the film, as you could see the grief/loss/pain on the faces of his friends. Although he once said "I'll die alone" this vision of emotions on those left behind is what could have really turned Kirk's demise into a true tear-jerker. Picard lacked this because he never knew Jim Kirk, the man - only his Starfleet history of achievements.

Re the abbreviation OSTFCUK, am I the only one whose mind translates this into a naughty word each time I see it?

Could somebody tell me just exactly where in Westminster Page's Bar is, and is it only ST night on Sundays?

[PAGES BAR London's Star Trek Bar, 75 Page Street, London SW1P 4LT (near Horseferry Road Courts). Information line 071 630 0911. Saturdays 5pm - 11pm. No

door charge. Large screen viewing and quiz.]

To Tim Gaskill - If CIC are going to include the usual extra programme on their premier of Voyager, how about giving a different title instead of the usual 'The Making of...' I suggest 'Assembling Voyager'.

To Keren Breen, or anyone connected with the Swansea Boarding Party - what have I missed? A ST con in my area!! Please, please, please could you get in touch about future possible dates on 01443 682727, or write.

• A. Dickie - Corresponding on behalf of Tone of the House of Duras

Greetings! First of all, let me say that since I and my sparring partner Aileen joined IDIC, our lives have been greatly enriched. This is our first of what is hoped to be many correspondences which may come from either myself or Aileen. We have several points which we would like to mention.

First up, this one is going straight to the OS fans who did or didn't go to see "that film" for reasons known only too well to the rest of us. I am only going to say this once. Kirk did not die! The reason he did not die is this; Kirk and Picard are both inside the Nexus, they meet and agree to stop Dr Soran by going back to the planet before the Nexus arrived. Now, when inside the Nexus you can go wherever you want to just by thinking about it, so if Kirk and Picard both wanted to go back to the planet it would take them there, *but* they would never actually leave the original Nexus and would only appear to prevent Dr Soran ever entering the Nexus, so at the end of the film they are both still inside the Nexus so Kirk is only dead as long as *he* thinks he is!!

I hope you were all listening and followed that! Next, Aileen would like to say a great big thank you to the guys who run Ayr Trek for confirming that she is not the only person sane enough (Trekkies/trekkers are not insane, all the rest are! ;-)) to love Star Trek and for enabling her to watch DS9 and Voyager, which she would not otherwise see, being one of those poor Humans who do not

have satellite television.

Aileen would love to hear from anyone wishing to be penpals with someone who is just learning to be a Trekker - please write to 6 Rosebank Cres, Ayr KA7 2SS.

To James Keating, Andrew Merritt and all other 15-or-thereabout years old members - Aileen is 15 and also gets laughed at by the kids at her school and even her parents, although I put a stop to that recently (you can't laugh without a tongue!) (*Aileen - I'd just like to point out that when I said that someone should cut out their tongues for laughing at their own child, that I was joking!*) Aileen and I both agree that anyone who laughs at Star Trek has no honour and should be strung up by their ankles, or the equivalent, and tortured to death. Slowly.

That's all for now. Q'plah, and remember you're never alone if you're a schizophrenic!

• David Raper - Hull

Having recently seen some 3rd season DS9 I must say that it is definitely getting better, with more character interplay and better stories. The introduction of the USS Defiant has certainly opened up possibilities, whilst the Dominion are something else entirely. I only hope that even after The Search and their unfortunate experience with the Jem'Hadar, that Starfleet has not given up on the Gamma Quadrant.

The simple fact that the Jem'Hadar did not close the wormhole implies that the Founders want it open as much as Starfleet - though I would be wary of their motives. They may not tolerate colonisation but there seems to be no obstacle to trade. For Bajor's sake I would hope so, since the Cardassians left the place an economic ruin and as such they need all the trade they can get.

Also, having just seen Voyager (Caretaker and Parallax) I must say it compares very well with early TNG and DS9 and bodes well for the future of Star Trek.

To Jean Perrin - Thank you for your comments. The Prime Directive may be rule

No. 1, but then *rules are made to be broken* after all, and *both* CT and TNG Captains have done just that for a good cause on a number of occasions.

To Gul Melset - In Penpals, the 1701-D did *not* eradicate all volcanic activity on Sarjenka's world, they merely destroyed the dilithium formations in the planet's crust that were tearing it to pieces. Normal volcanic activity would continue at normal levels.

To Jay Stevensen - With regard to the 'arrival' of Molly O'Brien on the 1701-D, I have to agree with you. It was all very well done, though if Worf ever decides on a change of career I do not think he will try for the medical profession of mid-wifery. Full marks to both writers and actors for that one.

To Kerry McGuire - Re Bajoran earrings. Ro Laren wears hers on the left because when they were making DS9 pilot nobody noticed until it was too late. On the other hand we could always argue that Ro wears hers that way because she belongs to a different religious sect than the rest, or maybe it was because she was not born on Bajor?

Finally a word of praise for the cartoons. Keep up the good work!

• Jay Stevensen - in Real Essex (apologies to Maureen Norton!)

Enjoyed Power Play but why did the macho leader take over Troi's body rather than Data's superior android frame? (No offence intended, Ms Sirtis, but you know what males are like...)

To Vicky Roberts (P49) - I didn't take your comments to imply that you couldn't take criticism and I agree absolutely that "Savage criticism is not only useless but destructive", but how we define "savage" (and "constructive") seems open to question. Neil's review (N/L 36 P 87) was a bit abrupt, but he didn't criticise Carol Sternberg's writing ability, just the subject matter. Humour is difficult to write, and very personal. What does Carol think about all this, I wonder?

To Julie Evans (*artiste extraordinaire*) - Which art college did you (or do you) attend? I know your mind is probably fully occupied with fantasies about Data/Lore, but how about taking a little break and drawing something for Classic fans, too? And (hefty prod) go ahead with the T-shirts! (But check copyright laws or maybe you'll have Paramount heavies knocking on your door at midnight!)

To Gloria Fry (P30) - Apologies! I've already admitted to having read your article in N/L 25 so I can hardly claim not to have seen one in N/L 30. My excuse (and I'm sticking to it) is that there was only *one* Vulcan at "that shop" and in my article I said you didn't see "groups of Vulcans". Logical, eh?

To Maureen Norton (P18) - You mean you Islanders think you're part of Essex? There's *water* in between you and us! Well... muddy stuff, anyway. :-) I'm further up-country, nearer to our illustrious county town.

To Harminder Pal (P49) - Glad you told us of your brief but good experience with Bill Shatner. I have been saddened by the media's constant, petty sniping at Mr Shatner during the recent Generations publicity and little glimpses like yours are needed to redress the balance.

• **Dejan Ladika - Slovenia**

I've been a member of this great club for two years and I'm going to renew my membership, of course. I'm going to be spending next year in the USA, where I'm going to do my third class of secondary school, and I really don't know how I would manage all this if IDIC wasn't around. I've learned a lot about English and people in general, and of course about Star Trek. I would like to thank Janet, Sheila and Valerie for correcting my mistakes, which were in the beginning really silly (at least you had a laugh) and also for doing this high quality N/L; and of course all you other fans round the world for making this N/L readable, interesting and funny. *[Sheila - Don't sell yourself short, Dejan. We've actually had very little correcting to do to your*

contributions. Good luck in America!]

After reading some reviews of the episodes of Voyager, I believe it is going to be really interesting... Explorations, meeting new aliens (never seen before) and obviously very interesting crew. I saw a few cuts from what I think was the pilot episode. For now it sounds much more interesting than DS9. I think DS9 got really good in the beginning of the third season, but when will producers finally realise that Sisko just isn't the right person for the job? I think they should kill him off and bring in a new commander or promote Kira. He just isn't giving the presence that Kirk and Picard did. I really don't know what they should do; DS9 is a good TV show and the quality of the episodes is improving, but Sisko just isn't right. Even Janeway looks more interesting for the moment, and I haven't even seen her yet!

I wish you all a great summer (especially the committee), and American members, be careful, because one European Trekker is preparing to beam over!

• **La Terrorista Boliviana - Aboard a shuttle to the planet Minos**

I see that DS9 is slated to be wound up after 4 seasons - something about a limited number of stories aboard a space-station (sounds slightly familiar). However, if Crossroads managed to keep going for so long, I can't see the problem DS9's having. :-)

Well, I'm fe-line wonderful after two of my cats took prizes in the local show. I got a few knowing winks when I told people Ro Laren's name. (The other one was Spot). How many closet Trekkers are there in this country???

To Catherine Hill and anyone else who actually managed to complete my wordsearch, compiled over about a week during a wordprocessing course. For those who didn't spot what the remaining letters spelt (or should have done if it was printed correctly) the answer was THE TROUBLE WITH TRIBBLES.

Nigel Nixon et al re Gus Grissom. I've only heard him referred to as Virgil so please

forgive me on this one.

Jay Stevensen and anyone else who is interested, Re award of Taruka's Tribbles. These can be won for excruciatingly bad puns, cartoons or by-lines, or anything else. Mike Sadler has quite a few, one was awarded for "How many tribbles does it take to change a light bulb?" I nearly gave Paul Taylor one for his "under the fridge" last time but then again he'd only throw it back at me. Therefore, in order to obtain a tribble, make me laugh, or failing that ask me for one at a con (if you can find me!)

Simon Robinson, re Brent Spiner's record and the ST 25th Anniversary thingy. The record is going to be very hard to find as the production company (Silva Screen) went out of business some time ago. However, you could try LCARS, 70 Leedale Road, Leyland, Lancs or Starship Ch'illik'utu, 15A Clevedon road, Ingol, Preston, Lancs PR2 3YL, one or the other may be able to find you a copy.

Pen Cramphorn. Many thanks for the books. I was going to write but since my front room keeps getting shifted about things tend to vanish, and your address was one of them. Oh, and anyone else out there with zines they would like to have a good home - I'm permanently broke but I'm looking for donations all the time.

Neil Safi and the tribble collector, re Kaferian apples. The only fruits which don't have pips are hybrids anyway - unless you count unpolinated cucumbers and bananas. As any gardener will tell you the only way to grow these things is by grafting or, if you're lucky, by making the things root. Now it is possible for Kaferian apples not to have pips if their main form of reproduction is vegetative, eg runners or tubers, or even bulbs, (potatoes spring to mind, though they produce fruit no-one would actually eat it, and it's far easier to grow a plant from a spud than from a potato pip) then pipless varieties would theoretically be possible. However, I can't help but think that if, as you say, the Kaferians are an insect race, then they would make sure that the plants produced the maximum amount of food. Hybrid fuchsias

and cherries, though pipless, are often equally devoid of nectar, double flowers meaning that stamens are transformed into petals, rendering the plants sterile, which is of no use to an insectoid race as there would be no pollen to eat either. Your comments welcome.

James Keating, thank you for your review of my story Q'oyimi Pachakuti. The title means "Useless Rebellion" but is also my comment on the story as it was printed. I cannot but agree about the teleprompter comment, I'd noticed it as well, this being a result of a massive rewrite which also had the effect of shortening the story by 50%. When the heart is torn out of a story then what's left is often of an inferior standard (my opinion Sheila, feel free to comment). I still think the original idea of having Data observe everything from the holodeck worked better.

Dave Rogers has been awarded a tribble for his comment about my surname. However, he threw it at me so I suppose that counts as declining the award.

• **Tim Goodchild - Ashtead, Surrey**

Star Trek: Generations was not the best film out of all 7 - in my opinion No 6 still ranks highest. That is not to say it was a bad film. The humour in this film was the best out of all of them, especially when Data started singing whilst "searching for life forms!" and when Data put his fist up when they had just blown up the Klingon ship and especially the "Oh, shit!" as the Enterprise tumbled towards the planet. I also liked the horse scenes whilst in the Nexus and the conversation between Kirk and Picard when they are on horseback.

The only thing which I was disappointed about was how Kirk died. In the first draft, apparently Soran should have shot Kirk - but of course that isn't very heroic. So I think it should have been Soran aiming at Picard, then Kirk pushes Picard out of the way and gets shot instead. What are your views on how Kirk died?

Does anyone phone the Star Trek hotline (not the CIC line) on 0336 404343? Recently they had a phone-in vote on

whether more ST:TNG episodes should be made or one or two special episodes should be made per year. A massive 98% voted that they should, and only 2% said they were happy with the 178 already made. Although I would like to see more episodes, I doubt that everyone would sign up (eg Patrick Stewart) as the cast might want to have a break in between films to do other things. Do any of you have any views on this?

As I look forward to ST VIII or Star Trek: TNG II, I am happy watching TNG, DS9 and am livid with excitement on the upcoming ST:Voyager.

Finally, to the person who was wondering who else was a teenager in this club, I am 15 years old.

Can You Help?

Several people have asked where they can get Star Trek uniforms. You should find that quite a lot of dealers and shops carry them now. There were certainly tops available at the Star Trek Exhibition.

If you prefer hand made or made to measure uniforms you could try the following:

Trekforms, 16 Bramwell Street, Eastwood, Rotherham, South Yorkshire S65 1RZ

Hightower Crafts, Clwt Melyn, Pen Lon, Newborough, Anglesey, Gwynedd LL61 6RS

Professional Props, 155, Langworthy Road, Seedley, Salford, Manchester M6 5PH.



STAR TREK: THE LOST VOYAGE OF THE ENTERPRISE

The Churchill Theatre, Bromley, Kent 26 Nov 1994

Reviewed by Libby Williams

I could not imagine how Star Trek, this complex and still developing, essentially cinematic experience, could possibly transfer to the stage. How would they confine Federation space behind a proscenium arch? How on earth (or off it) would they produce a transporter effect? Which images, old or new, would they try to emulate? Or would they reject all and do something new? Awesome choices, which laid a crucial load on the director: would he just use Roddenberry's creation as a peg on which to hang his own ambitions, or would he be able to steep his own talents in Roddenberry's vision and re-create on stage a genuine Star Trek experience?

I went into the Churchill Theatre eager to know, but a little apprehensive, and I came out enraptured. Make no mistake about it; John Gore has aimed for the second of those choices and in my opinion has achieved as complete a clone of Classic Trek as I think could ever be done in the live theatre. From the moment the curtain lifted we slid easily into an absolutely classic Classic plot, with a

dastardly Klingon/Romulan alliance threatening the Federation with a sinister time-portal of a type never before encountered (well, hardly ever).

The only thing not strictly Classic were the New and Improved Klingons, but that was all right; the armour-plated hairlines and high-tech cutlery have mixed quite happily (if that is the word I want) with the Classic cast ever since the first movie, and to return to the old-style black greasepaint and budget tunics would have been a bad let-down. The visual effect was of course vital in all departments, and the Classic 'look' was otherwise miraculously achieved, right down to the properly tacky planet surfaces with their polystyrene cactuses: the only things missing were the pink feather-dusters. And of course there was the statutory leggy lady sheathed in satin for Kirk to be Kirk with: even her name was right - Arethusia, lifted straight out of a Greek mythology, with that ubiquitous final - that even TNG writers find it so hard to break with for female aliens (Kara, Shahna, Losira, Lwaxana, Ariana,

Yareena...)

Much reassured by the opening I remained on slight tenterhooks until the Bridge set was revealed, but I need not have worried: this came as a proper and spectacular climax when we were nicely into the plot and instantly drew a most justified round of applause. It simply *was* the Bridge of the Enterprise: trivia buffs will no doubt find details to nit-pick on it but the overall impression was stunning, and as the crew began to move and speak - well, I knew that we were there.

The speed with which I accepted the cast as the actual crew demonstrates, at least in my perception, the quality of Gore's recreation of Roddenberry's model. Not all the portrayals were equally successful, but there can be no doubt that these actors had studied not just the original characters but the original performances, down to the last detail. Crucial to the whole was the casting of the Captain, and Bradley Lavelle's Kirk was outstanding. He seemed to have found not just the personality but the voice, even the mannerisms: the hand on the chin, the sprawl in the command chair, the authoritative grip on the upper arms of the person he wanted to persuade, accompanied by that ingenuously deferential smile - this was not just Kirk, it was Shatner's Kirk!

Spock, in comparison, was maybe a shade disappointing - a little too short, the voice a little too high, the ears lacking in elegance - but Adrian Neil had again made a meticulous study not just of the part but the actor, and the measured, silent movement about the Bridge, hands behind the back, achieved something very close to the authentic, graceless perfection. (Yes, I said graceless: deeply and passionately as I love Mr Spock, no one can call Leonard Nimoy a graceful mover - shields up!) And his vital performance in the neat and satisfying denouement was entirely in the best Spock tradition.

Around these two the others all fell smoothly into place, running the familiar roles with such high polish that the occasional grinding of the gears came as a

shock. Darrel Bate's McCoy perhaps lacked a little of the authentic crustiness, and there again the visual match was not quite spot on, but Joanne Campbell gave to Uhura a depth and dynamism that the original was rarely allowed a chance to develop: of all the 'supporting' cast this was the one, I thought, where the character was not just a perfect match but took off into something bigger and more convincing - Uhura as she should have been, as the conditions of the original production never permitted Nichelle Nichols to make her. And how Nichelle would have loved her big scene, lounging on a couch in Cleopatra costume, and how splendidly Joanne Campbell played it!

The set was excellent. The Bridge was the movable centrepiece, built over a lower level that could be used for the smaller areas of Briefing Room and Sickbay - an arrangement that also allowed the producer to solve the transporter problem with brilliant simplicity: stand your crew on the lower stage, black out all but the strobing spots that produce the beaming effect, roll the Bridge out of the way behind them and lo! when the lights go up again they are standing against a fresh background!

Little things could be listed that did not quite make it - the wickedly camp Romulan, the absence of a hiss in McCoy's scanner, the crew in very slightly the Wrong Trousers - but this would be less than fair to the astonishing achievement of the whole: for me at least the illusion that I was watching a 'lost voyage of the Enterprise' became stronger and stronger as the performance continued.

The Bromley run ended on 26th November but I do hope that this is not the end of the production. The style, polish and sheer verve of it deserve much wider exposure. For this fan at least it produced an almost miraculous effect of authenticity without slavishness; respect, and meticulous research, with no loss of warmth or spontaneity - a worthy successor to the two series and the movies in the ongoing saga of the continuing voyages of the Starship Enterprise. It seems to me it succeeds because it springs out of genuine love for the show, with all its life, all its idealism and all its

shortcomings, especially those that were the fault of budget constraints, not lack of vision. It is true to the series, but the energy, the laughter, the sheer fun are not lost. In fact, the larger theatrical space allows for that touch of self-parody that was present even in the original to expand without damaging the show's essential integrity. Star Trek is being taken seriously here, but also being allowed to boldly go slightly over the top, the better to reflect the joy of its makers in the original

Roddenberry creation.

Director/Producer, John Gore; Writers, Sam Mitchell & John Gore; Kirk, Bradley Lavelle; Spock, Adrian Neil; McCoy, Darrell Bate; Scott, Andy Nimmo; Sulu, Benedict Wong; Chekov, Tristan Middleton; Uhura (and choreographer), Joanne Campbell; Star Trek Consultant, Toby Chamberlain; Starfleet Costumes, Janet Lawn.



TIMEWARP 2

11th & 12th March 1995, Malahide Co. Dublin, Ireland.

enjoyed by Clare Finkel

What was to enjoy?

Guest of honor Majel Barrett Roddenberry, who did much more than her job, which she also did more than well. She spoke of ST dreams, scientific and otherwise, being fulfilled, and she gave frank and humorous response to the numerous questions from the audience. She sat for more than her agreed two hours signing autographs and chatting with fans. And she was everywhere, like a true fan, a friend. She even sat on the panel discussing the future of fandom. Majel Barrett Roddenberry is truly the "First Lady of Star Trek". May she live long and prosper. By the way, her favourite advice to questioners who wanted something done was, "Write a letter." She said it with tongue in cheek, but she meant it sincerely and said, "It works."

Guest couple Peter Morwood and Diane Duane, both of whom sat on panels, signed autographs and added their own brand of spirit to the scene. Diane auctioned name usage for her upcoming novel. One lucky Trekker will read about herself as an ensign or a "bad guy" or - who knows? All I know is that I saw that Trekker, and she was quite possibly the happiest one there.

Leonard Nimoy's ears, which he sent in his stead with his sincere regrets that he and his wife were unable to attend due to problems in scheduling his present directing

project. "The ears" raffle contributed greatly to the estimated £15,000.00 raised for the benefit of sick children; that is, "An Incubator for the Next Generation", which was the goal.

Videos. There's something to be said for seeing "Amok Time" up close on a large screen! I saw four episodes of Voyager, too, and am very hopeful! Janeway is a woman and the Captain! (I imagine we have Jeri Taylor to thank for that.) The still nameless holographic doctor works. Tuvok (the Vulcan) is delightfully annoying. I'm sure that one of these days Torres (the Klingon/Human) is going to let him have it, or at least try to. In fact, the fact that they are not all Starfleet contributes to characterization. There's humour, meaning, and I think I even felt the magic..

Panel discussions and Majel's talks, which I already mentioned; but one of the biggest concerns discussed by the panel is commercial conventions taking over fan run events. If nothing else, we're advised to remember one thing: fan run events are primarily for the fans, and even the secondary goals (the incubator) are noble. Commercial events have other priorities, along with power, backing, money and influence..

The dealers' promenade, which was the smallest I've ever seen. Well, I confess I've only seen three, but I liked what I saw.

Lincoln Enterprises was there. ST Action Group had a stand. There were zines, models, tee shirts, uniforms, key rings, pin ball machines, photographs galore, and possibly everything. There was even an artist, who painted before our eyes. (I'm too ignorant to credit his unusual talent properly. He used car spray paint, splatter paint, magazine paper for blotting, strange shaped objects to create his scenes... Incredible and beautiful.)

Quark's bar, in which fans could meet for a light meal, refreshment, and chat with other fans.

Role playing games, which I cannot tell you about because they are not my interest. I can tell you this, however; they were so popular that lots had to be drawn for participation. I suppose next time the committee will try to double the availability.

The masquerade disco, "Scum of the Galaxy"; home-made costumes to knock your eyes out (Klingons, Borg, characters from Babylon 5; there was even a guy who looked exactly like Riker, only he didn't enter the competition).

The lessons in Klingon culture and language, and other discussions that I missed.

And last (the best for last) the people, starting with the committee, that crazy committee. Get this, the chairman isn't even a Trekker! He said he likes running cons, says he gets a buzz out of it! As to them all (there were at least a dozen) I cannot begin to praise their efforts and their friendliness. From my perspective, everything ran smoothly - events were on schedule, emergency changes were well publicized, there was plenty to do, everything that could be covered was. Only during the short time I served as gopher did I see any signs of the effort that it took. How anyone can organize and run an event like that I cannot imagine. There wasn't even supposed to be a TIMEWARP 2. From the start of the first, they swore there wouldn't be another! One was certainly enough. *But*, while sitting together in the lobby at the end of that convention, even before they had time to catch their breath, TIMEWARP 2 was born...

Too good to be true? All right, I admit it wasn't perfect. And to prove it, I'll cite some problems.

Signing up from out of country, I didn't know how to pay, I couldn't contact anyone directly about it, and there was question in my mind about my accommodation, because I was late in signing up. In other words, they didn't hold this neophyte's hand and guide her through. After meeting them I realized they are not accustomed to leaving people in the lurch, nor are they accustomed to thinking that anyone would think they might. Such things just are not done. My worry was for nothing, and everything in that regard turned out fine.

I also heard, though it didn't affect me, that Majel, suffering from jet lag, was late for her second talk. (She had to give the same talk twice, because the room wasn't large enough to accommodate everyone.) I hope those who had to wait appreciated she was worth waiting for.

I missed one event because they were late. I couldn't wait because there was another event I wanted to attend. I think they were having trouble setting up; I really don't know. But obviously this type of conflict could happen because there was so much to do. (If it were on time, it would have conflicted with something else; so, I suppose there were people who were glad that event was late.)

And my costume fizzled - or did it? Because the theme was "Scum of the Galaxy," I expected everyone to be dressed as Borg, Klingons, Romulans, and possibly even Q in a Captain's uniform - in other words, the "bad guys". Believing Humans to be as bad as everyone else, I dressed as Human. Well, there were "good guys" among the masqueraders. It seemed the theme had no meaning. People dressed as they wanted. When I saw this, I felt foolish and considered backing out, but the curious looks I got made it worth it. I'm sure people were wondering what I thought I was doing. A few even asked, and I think I stumped the committee head in charge. That made the dressing up enjoyable in a way that I hadn't expected.

And, as I said before, the costumes were great. Lucky me, being one of the contestants I got to see them all up close.

Oh and of course, how could I forget Nimoy's no show? Well, I signed up so late that the first I heard of it was notification that he wasn't going to make it. Spock has always been my favourite character so I was surprised that I wasn't more disappointed. Maybe that was because I sensed sincere disappointment from Nimoy himself. To me, it was as though he was there in spirit. And I can't help thinking that he possibly could have overshadowed Majel. (Notice I'm calling her "Majel." That's because I feel, as grand as she really is, she is able to make herself more like "us." I wonder if Nimoy could do that? I think if Nimoy were there, I would have been so focused on him, that I would have missed her.)

That's all the "problems" I can think of.

I saved the very best for last - the fans. I have four addresses of people to write to, including IDIC member Adrienne Brown. (Was anyone else there?) I *went* alone, but I *wasn't* alone. People came up and spoke to me, and I was truly welcomed when I got the nerve to do the same. I even got the nerve enough to join other people's tables. It was great.

Oh, and by the way, the committee swore up and down, publicly and in writing, that there would be no TIMEWARP 3. They said they were plum tuckered out, and advised us to watch for other conventions, such as VISICON in '96 - but on my way out the door, while they were sitting together in the lobby trying to catch their breath, I overheard them talking...

Happy conventioning, everyone.



THE EASTER CONVENTION

HOLIDAY INN, SHEFFIELD, 14 - 17th APRIL

reported by Maria Woodward

I had to rise very early to catch my train, arrived in Sheffield mid-day, checked into the hotel, got the con package, had an hour to spare so I hit Sheffield. (Didn't think much of it!)

The opening ceremony was 2 o'clock. Max Grodenchick and Mark Shepherd were there, along with Bjo Trimble (Aron Eisenberg was on his way but wouldn't get there till later that day). After that I went and hit the Sheffield Space Centre (where I had a wonderful time). On my way back I saw Max, so we had a chat. He was busy telling me about his first newsletter of Rom's Bar. I left him to find something to eat, and made my way to my room.

About 5.30 I went to the autograph session and got Bjo, Mark and Max's autographs (Aron still hadn't arrived). When I got to Max, I handed over a photo of him and myself, dressed as a Klingon, which I had

blown up. (He was made up as a Klingon by Karen Westerfield on the cruise Alaska!)

Saturday started off with the Voyager pilot, followed by Bjo then by Mark Shepherd, then by the three of them (Mark, Max and Aron). Aron was great, he just rambled on all the time and poor Mark and Max couldn't get a word in! Evening was the fancy dress followed by the disco.

On his Sunday talk Max spotted me and when someone asked him if he would like to play something different, he went "Oh, yes, while I was on the cruise last year - stand up, Maria! Maria was on board too." He made me stand, but I quickly sat down again! Then he told the whole crowd how Karen Westerfield had made him into a Klingon! Then he got off the stage and onto the floor and did the bits that they cut from House of Quark. Max was trying to do Quark's voice and it was just so funny! He

wanted to tell us what was coming up on DS9, but Aron wouldn't let him - so when Max wanted to give something away, he would make sure Aron wasn't about!

After that the hour went by so quickly it even shocked Max. He looked at me and said would they like to hear the song that I made up (along with some other fans) on the cruise, about him running his brother's bar. It was taken from Julie Andrews' "Wouldn't it be lovely" tune.

The whole weekend was a lot of fun. I

got to know Max a bit more, made new friends, saw some old friends and just had a *whale* of a time!

Re Voyager - What I've seen so far, I loved! At first I thought being 75 years away wouldn't work, but it has - and what a great cast! My favourites so far are Kim, Paris, Doc and Neelix (these two both make me laugh). I have managed to get the first two books of Voyager and both, once I picked them up I couldn't put them down until they were finished. Great stories. I wish it all the best!



GENERATIONS CONVENTION - YOUR COMMENTS

• **Sheila Clark** - It was nice to have specific seats so nobody was afraid to move in case of losing a good seat. There were announcements that no videoing or taping was allowed, and anyone found doing either would probably have the tapes destroyed.

The speakers were introduced by having their credits read by Eric Stillwell and Lolita Fatjo. The actors then walked on stage through a cloud of smoke (and left the same way) - my guess is that they were trying to give the effect of beaming in and out, but although it was quite effective, it made it difficult for the actors to see where they were. Michael Dorn who was on first was worst affected; they cut back on the volume of smoke after that. It also made it almost impossible for anyone who obeyed the request made by several of the actors to take all their photos in the first two or three minutes to get any sort of clear photo. (Some people carried on taking photos right through the talks; with the circular hall, it was annoying for the audience and must have been very annoying for the actors, but nobody tried to stop the photographers.)

None of the actors did a talk such as we are used to at the fan-run cons; instead, after a minute or two of general chat, they invited questions. There were several microphone points but a lot of people, even in the expensive seats, were nowhere near one. Not very many people got the chance to

ask a question, and one or two who did indicated that they had actually been trying to ask their question of the *previous* speaker.

A fair number of those present had been to the movie premier or went to the showing on Saturday night. This resulted in cries of "We don't want to know that!" from those who hadn't seen it when questioners asked something specific about the movie. And for as many Brent Spiner fans as there seem to be, Patrick and Jonathan were the only two to get a standing ovation when they finished.

Gates McFadden had a change of schedule with Brent Spiner that left some people who only had tickets for Saturday feeling rather miffed because they had wanted to hear Brent. She had to leave early for a 20-hour flight to Hawaii, where she is filming *Marker*.

Her advice to budding actors (echoed later by Patrick Stewart) was to do it because there's something you wanted to give, something you want to say; because you love it. To think of acting for the return you'll get is a disappointment.

Rick Berman said the next movie is in the early discussion stage; they're hoping for November 1996 release, but there is no writer or director lined up as yet. DS9 ratings are improving; they might integrate TNG

characters into it. 1701-B is a redress of Excelsior. Gates left, he said, because of a clash of personalities with Maurice Hurley and when he left she returned. He also has discussed a continuation of Unification with Nimoy.

The Screen Actors' Guild has announced their first annual awards. Patrick Stewart is one of 5 actors nominated for an award.

Asked if distance would impose limitations on Voyager, he said yes, but it forced them to invent new races, etc. Beyond Voyager? He has no idea. He hopes that DS9 and Voyager will each go on for 7 seasons and then be followed by movies, but feels that things could be overdone. He felt that both Voyager and the movie should have been delayed by about 6 months.

There then followed a presentation - the Leonardo da Vinci Trophy, a crystal sculpture of da Vinci's flight drawings - which Rick accepted on behalf of Gene. The Brains Trust is devoted to nurturing intelligence; the annual Brain of the Year Award is for people with extended global vision, who are literate, understand the function of their intelligence; people who are creative and love mankind. Gene was quoted as one of the best examples ever.

Patrick Stewart, the last speaker of the day, followed. He thanked those who were at the premier. Asked why OT actors were included in the movie, he said it was in recognition of their legacy.

Sunday's first speaker was a bearded LeVar Burton, who was the most serious of them all in his attitude; his philosophies were mentioned. He spoke of Gene's vision of hope. Like Whoopi Goldberg, he had been impressed by Nichelle Nichols in OT; and he mentioned some others whose future careers had been shaped by Trek.

Brent Spiner, unlike the others, went straight into questions.

The line "I'm fine" (with contraction) was in fact deliberate, after consultation with

the director. It was intended to create some doubt as to whether Data, rather than Lore, had been beamed away. As an aside, it was also to see how closely the producers watched the dailies!

Brent explained some of the delays in answering mail sent c/o Paramount. There is a backlog because they only go in perhaps once a fortnight.

He commented on how Patrick, after a lecture on being serious, stood on the hill in *Skin of Evil* singing "The Hills are Alive..."

Lolita Fatjo said that Tim Russ, who plays Tuvok, was second choice for Geordi. Eric Stillwell wrote the story for the episode Prime Factors. They may have aliens who are not bipeds on Voyager. Asked why gays are never represented, she said Gene felt there was no reason to pinpoint gays because in the 23rd/24th centuries everyone would be equal.

About spec scripts, she said they are all read; there is a 1% chance of one being accepted. The Bonding, Measure of a Man and Tin Man were all spec scripts. Sometimes only the story is accepted (\$9000); it's \$12000 for the teleplay.

The proposed workshop had to be cancelled because Ron Moore couldn't make it; it may be brought over in the spring.

They had no plans to film one of the novels; indeed they never read these, for copyright reasons. Actors have little input; directors work with the writers when close-to-filming changes are wanted. They use the names of real people a lot.

Marina Sirtis spoke warmly of Gene. She also pointed out that it was fans watching reruns of OT for 20 years that made TNG a viable proposition for Paramount.

Jonathan Frakes was the last guest. He was extrovert, energetic and fun, and gave us a quick burst of "Volare..." Enough of the audience knew about that to respond!

Something embarrassing was said to

every one of the actors (Gate's age, Jonathan's weight) presumably (one hopes) in a moment of thoughtlessness. There were also a lot of questions of the genus "Open mouth wide and insert foot firmly" Someone near me muttered, "Get a life!" at one question, it was so naive.

There was an excellent atmosphere on both days, we enjoyed it and were glad we'd gone, but there were enough disadvantages that we're not likely to make the trip to another professionally run con.

- **Jim Fanning** - My only complaint - the organisation of the question and answer sessions was poor. A lot of the time seemed to be wasted searching round the hall for the people who were asking the questions. "Put your hand up to ask a question," said the programme, "and a steward will approach you. Do not leave your seat." Sorry, this did not happen where we were (maybe something to do with the cheap seats?)

I think we'll all jump from the balcony if we hear one more person saying, "I think you're sexy... I think you have a sexy voice... You are my favourite actor..." etc, etc.

It was just as well we had taken our own food and drink. The Albert Hall IS the worst venue in the world for an event of this kind. A lot of people walked up to Kensington High Street for food/snacks.

The queues in the corridor to get to the dealers' rooms were horrendous and surely dangerous! The dealers' room itself? Overpriced as usual. There was very little there that I had not seen before.

It was an enjoyable day. Great to see the stars of the show! Yes - I wish I had bought a ticket for Sunday. Yes - I will be back next year if there is another convention.

Stargazer Productions - the good humour of the audience helped you over the glaring gaffes! Please - don't use the Albert Hall again (it is a horrendous venue for something of this nature!) If you *do* use this venue again - get the dealer rooms organised properly; get something done about the

provision of refreshments; get the answer and question sessions better organised; less smoke!

I really expect better of a commercial organisation!

- **Frances Abernethy** - Marina Sirtis was asked her opinion of W Shatner; she said that up until the premier in London she hadn't actually met him - although an American paper had stated that she had a low opinion of WS. She emphasised that *you shouldn't believe what you read in the papers - if they don't have news then they'll make something up*. She quoted that Patrick Stewart said WS was a very pleasant man and that they got on well together.

- **Jo Healy** - The convention was good and bad. The good points were the great guests that we had.

The bad points - well, first of all the sign posting of the dealers' rooms was very bad, unless you had a programme to follow, but first of all you had to locate someone selling programmes. Secondly, even although the Royal Albert Hall is a beautiful building, it is not designed for a few thousand people to walk round at one time, and so everyone had to queue up if they wanted to visit the dealers' rooms (which were very small indeed). Sometimes the movement of people in the corridors came to a full standstill for minutes at a time, with people trying to pass in both directions. As my husband said, "It's a disaster waiting to happen" - but then again Lord Justice Taylor's football stadium report does not apply.

Thirdly, the catering was non-existent. There were only two small places to eat, if you could find them, and wait ages to queue up for hamburgers or hot dogs, which made me feel very sorry for my fellow fans who are vegetarians.

- **Helen Bickley** - My husband and I thought the whole weekend was very entertaining. It was very enjoyable to see the characters who are portrayed in the series appearing as they truly are, and enlightening the audience with jokes and quips and replying to questions

(which they must have reiterated many times over at past conventions) with such sincerity and honesty. It must be extremely difficult for these actors to come out on stage for 1.25 hours solely on their own and keep the audience enthralled. I hope the organisers realise that this convention was a huge success and they will repeat it again some time in the future (maybe in time for the new Next Generation film!!!)

• **Martin Stahl** - Lolita Fatjo presented slides from DS9's third season and answered questions. I was not impressed very much by her presentation as most of her answers were "I don't know", and she always told us how we *will* like Voyager and Generations. Perhaps it would have been better to let Richard Arnold have this talk.

For the fancy dress, 10 costumes were selected and presented on stage - two Picards (one in the naval uniform from Generations), several Klingons, a (male) Lwaxana, and others. The winner was a Klingon and the prizes obviously came from Paramount's promotion department - caps and T-shirts, none of them having anything to do with Star Trek. When the 5 competitors were called for the quiz, only one appeared so they called more names from the cards that were thrown into the box at the entrance. When my name was called I went to the stage, but before I reached it they had got their 5 so I went back to my seat. But it had the advantage that some minutes later a lady stood in front of me and asked, "Martin Stahl? I'm Sheila Clark." At the moment that was more important for me than the trivia game, which, held by the author of the Trekmaster book, seemed to me like a promotion tour for the book, as I was looking forward to meeting the IDIC committee (I've been a member for 6 years now). It was important to me to meet Janet, Sheila and Valerie.

I enjoyed the convention, but I don't know if I'll come to the next professional con Eric Stilwell announced for 1996. The actors were great and it was a once-in-a-lifetime experience to see the whole TNG cast. Nevertheless, I prefer fan-run conventions as meeting other fans is very important for me - perhaps even more than meeting the actors.

• **Anne-Marie Flowers** - Re the Albert Hall Con: my salivary glands have never been so challenged. Patrick Stewart is unbelievably attractive! It was lovely to see all the TNG actors, and every one of them was charming, funny and genuine. I also enjoyed Rick Berman's talk and I was sorely disappointed at the absence of Ron Moore and Brannon Braga. That said, I don't think I'd ever go to another con there. It really was too crowded and impersonal. The dealers' rooms were badly situated and far too small. The charity auction was an embarrassing failure - many of the items were not Trek related and access to the microphones was severely limited.

Re Wil Wheaton - can anyone tell me about the new SF series he is supposed to be starring in?

• **Maria Woodward** - I really haven't made my mind up if I like this sort of convention. Okay, so all TNG's cast was there plus Rick Berman and Nichelle Nichols (who made a surprise guest signing copies of her new book). You never got anywhere near the guest stars - no autographs - and that's what I like about the smaller fan conventions, where you get the chance to have a chat and get a picture taken with the star, plus an autograph! The guests were wonderful and very funny; but I was wondering if the other fans would go again next year. The dealers' rooms were small and it took ages to get into them; when you did, the prices seemed very dear - my friend saw a Playmates DS9 station with the sounds for £54.99; when I was in the States I got it for \$27.99! The American stands were just putting pounds instead of dollars.

Apart from that I had a very enjoyable weekend, and if anyone can change my mind, maybe I'll go next year!

• **Dave Smith** - I went to the Albert Hall for just the Saturday and had a really good time. My only disappointment was that the guests were split between the Saturday and the Sunday, which meant that I was unable to see my favourite, Marina Sirtis, as her slot on stage was on Sunday; but never mind, the people I did see gave great performances, especially Patrick Stewart. It's hoped that the convention will become an annual event and

if so then next year I will be going to both days.

• **Margaret Rainey**

100027.151@compuserve.com

So that was Generations Con. I went along, very dubious about the whole idea, not expecting to like it much, but curious to see what a pro-run con would be like anyway, and willing to try at least one before deciding whether to hate them altogether.

I come away with mixed feelings. I find that for the most part, I enjoyed it, but there were glaring exceptions to what I expect and want out of anything calling itself a "convention".

On the "pro" side - as a stage show, it was terrific. Very well organised and run (even ran to time!), and very professionally presented. Large - OK - *humungous* video screen above the stage, laser lights, dry ice (far too much for those of us choking in the front rows of the arena), spotlights, music in what felt like full surround dolby stereo (especially when the Enterprise went into warp at one point and I thought the roof of the Albert Hall was about to come off), and the appearance of each of the 7 TNG actors live on stage over two days. It had all the necessary "bits" to qualify as a pretty spectacular stage show. As a *convention*

Well, on the "con" side of the argument, I found that in the periods when I *didn't* wish to be in the main arena, which was about 3 hours of each day, there was nothing else to do. There was no alternate programme to attend. There were two dealers rooms, but given that at least half the 6000 attendees were always trying to get *into* them at any given point (except when everyone was watching the actors anyway) it became a bit of a trial. The queues for the dealers rooms were horrendous, no matter *when* you tried to get in. I made it into one room in the end, then couldn't get near any of the tables. I gave up, so it was a very cheap con!

And the biggest bugbear I found about the Albert Hall, is that outside of the main arena, there's no place else to sit. No place to

gather, unless you're prepared to stand in a crowded bar for 3 hours (no seats in the bars!!), no place to hang out and chat with those few people you do manage to meet in amongst the crowds. And since the Albert Hall is pretty much in the middle of nowhere as regards other facilities, it's at least a 15 min walk in any direction to the nearest sandwich bar, eating place, or pub.

So while I enjoyed seeing the actors, and have no fault to pick with the stage presentations, I can't bring myself to regard this event as a "convention". It was a stage show, pure and simple. A great one, yes, but - call me old fashioned - at a *convention* I want to be able to meet friends, hang out, and talk Star Trek. That's why I'm now really looking forward to SOL III.

Would I go to another professional event, having satisfied my curiosity now? Not unless it were something really special, like another "Grand Slam" event with an entire cast of TOS or TNG, or perhaps something like Shatner/Nimoy, or Stewart/Shatner. And if I did go, I'd not only take my own sandwiches, I'd pack the folding chairs as well!

• **Alan Callaby** - We'd booked for Sunday only. Just after we joined the train at Epping, the couple sitting opposite us produced a Generations programme. After making "first contact", it turned out that they had attended the previous day's events, and without giving too much away they made the day ahead all we had expected.

Our seats were front row on the upper balcony - wow, what a view! The only disappointment was that my two favourites (Gates McFadden and Michael Dorn) had appeared on the previous day.

Jonathan came across as a man of many talents and brought the house down when a camera flashed in the middle of his performance, to which he gave the response of "Red alert! Shields up!"

What a great twelve hours we enjoyed, and what memories. My main memory was Marina's tears at her overwhelming reception

and the only disappointment was simply not going on both days. Still, hopefully it might all happen again one day.

• **Lindsay Wright** - Well, the BIG weekend is over. Despite the bad planning as far as the dealers' rooms being far too small and there not being enough food to feed the five thousand, I enjoyed the Generations con immensely - apart from finally getting to see Patrick Stewart in the flesh!!! I thought all the guests were entertaining. Unfortunately I had to leave fifteen minutes into Jonathan Frakes' talk to get my train, and although my seat was fairly near the stage my photographs look as though they were taken from the top gallery! Can anyone help me out with better ones? Also are there any tapes or videos of the con going round? I will pay all costs.

• **Tim Goodchild** - In the previous newsletter a report of the Generations Convention covered most of the stars' talks; here are just a few notes that were not covered.

Michael Dorn - He did the best impersonation of Patrick Stewart from the film *Excalibur* that I have ever seen; he does this quite a lot in front of Patrick, and it really gets on Patrick's nerves! He enjoyed the European premier of *Star Trek: Generations* a lot more than the American premier. This was because the American premier was held on the Paramount lot and therefore was not open to the public; whereas when he was driven up in his limo in London and stepped out onto the red carpet, everyone went wild and he actually felt like a big star!

Just before Michael signed to do *Generations* he was told that he would not be able to fly. Of course he was angry; but the funny side of the story was that if he crashed whilst flying and during filming months, it would be okay if he died. If he crashed and got injured, he would get sued!

Patrick Stewart - He has been a lifelong supporter of Huddersfield Town Football Club and was over the moon when earlier that morning (Feb 4th) he received a shirt and a signed football from the club!

After the European premier (Feb 3rd) he went to his hotel for an early night. Then Frakes, Spiner, Burton, Dorn, Sirtis and McFadden got the manager to get Patrick down to reception to answer an urgent telephone call. So he came down and realised he'd been set up, and ended up talking and drinking for about 3 hours with his dearest friends.

LeVar Burton - When somebody asked him, "Have you seen the British sci-fi series *Red Dwarf*?" he said "British science fiction?!" and gave a kind of "Oh my God," look!

Brent Spiner - He prefers doing *Data* with emotions, and would like him to stay with emotions in any further motion pictures. He talked and talked for so long that his session ran into the break, and he didn't want to leave, and we didn't want him to leave, so when LeVar came out to drag him off, I just cracked up!

Marina Sirtis - She thoroughly enjoyed *All Good Things...* and *ST: Generations*, although next time she would like a larger part. When ever she goes to Greece and is asked "What is your dog's name?" and Marina's reply is "Skilagi," they always give her an odd look, as *Skilagi* to them means "dog".

Jonathan Frakes - His ultimate dream is for Riker and Troi to get married, and to star in a new *Star Trek* series entitled *Star Trek: The Rikers*. He loves directing and would like to direct some more *Deep Space 9*, *Voyager* and possibly a *ST:TNG* feature movie.

Nichelle Nichols - On the first day of the convention I met Nichelle Nichols and got a signed copy of the autobiography, which I am very proud of and will *never* get rid of!

Charity auction - The things on offer were pretty impressive and when the champagne bottle (seen at the beginning of the *Generations* film) went for about £1300 I was amazed - especially because the person who bought it was in the next box seat from me! Also when the special edition of *All*

Good Things went for £70 I was very pleased that my copy of that video (he says, grinning at those who do not own an official copy) could be worth that much and more in years to come. The Star Trek rap Make It So CD (of which only 250 copies were ever made) went for £300 for the unsigned copy and £600 for the copy signed by the entire cast of the film, including William Shatner!

Now that I have been to one fan-run convention (UFP '94) and one official convention (Generations) I see advantage

and disadvantages about them both. At a fan con you can walk around, see episodes, not get crushed (!), meet friends, but there are not usually major guests and the hours can be awkward. Whereas at an official convention there are a lot of excellent guests, you can meet friends, more to buy in the dealers' room, good seats, but it can be very busy, and at a place like the Albert Hall there are not many rooms available for stalls as the dealers' rooms were always jam packed and I was only able to get in there if I left a session when a guest was still speaking on stage.



Pros and Cons

by Anny Wise

I was delighted to accept a place on the panel at Timewarp 2 (The Kitomer Conference) held at the Grand Hotel, Malahide, on the 11th & 12th of March this year. The panel was part of the programme on the Sunday and was to discuss the running of Star Trek Conferences or Fan Conventions in Ireland. Other members of the panel were Majel Barrett Roddenberry, Diane Duane & Peter Morwood (our resident Irish duo) with Brendan Ryder chairing and representing Timewarp, Owen Meehy for Visicon (due in Ireland next year). There were also two visitors from the UK, one was Kim Knight who has fifteen years of experience in running UK Fan Cons and I am sorry: I don't remember the name of the other lady - I apologise in advance, but we were all rushed on stage without full introductions. I was representing Irecon having four Irecons under my belt (no, I was not overweight!).

The panel was to discuss what makes a good convention? How orientated are they to the fans? How do fans run events compared to the professional cons? The bulk of the discussion between panel members and fans in the audience (which must have numbered over 200) was, however, all about the Irish fans and the Professional Cons.

I found this experience, very informative and would like to share it with

you.

The first thing you should know is that the people who run the Cons, and those who come as guests, like the Irish fan cons - in fact they like the Irish Star Trek fans and much praise was given. It appears that in Ireland, we're still having fun - and that is not as common as it should be where Star Trek fans are concerned. The active fun (at fan cons) was alive in the US during the 1970's and in the UK about 10 years ago - but has since been watered-down into the veggie type of con attendee - who is passive rather than active. Here I wish to point out that these words are not all mine, but I am reporting what was said. They were singing the praises of Irish Cons which were said to be a breath of fresh air and reminded them all of better days - the days before materialism crept into the scene - the days when the fans DID lots of things and did not come and expect the people who run the Cons to do everything for them. The days when there were not enough "Star Trek Episodes" around to have non-stop video showings - the days when there was far more variety in the programmes because it depended on individuals and personalities rather than technology.

I did not have the heart to say that these are Irish rather than Irish Star Trek characteristics - I was enjoying looking at the

faces of our Irish fans from the stage too much. When writing to the guests I always sell Ireland - the country and the people. The Irish have not lost the art of human contact - they still know how to hold an interesting and intelligent conversation (well most of them do). They read a great deal and there are many budding writers out there.

The Glitz, the showmanship and that professionalism is not really appreciated in Ireland. They want to be involved, to meet the stars and guests and to have a lot of time to enjoy each other's company. In fact at Irecon4 - someone said to me - that they liked the fact that the registration was a mess - otherwise it would have been too well run.

Gates McFadden sang the Irish fans praises and so did Sue, Sandy, Brenda and Jacqueline from the UK. Gates kept on saying "The Irish fans are so well mannered". There is something special about Irish Cons because there is something special about the Irish. Irish Cons are where you get the "crack that has nothing to do with drugs" - quoting Diane from the panel.

The professionals have come to the UK and they visited Irecon4 - they saw and they planned to return and perhaps to conquer. A Con where they wheel you in and out, sit around with thousands of others to see a far off figure of your favourite Star Trek actor is not Irish. They may try it - but only once. This was one of the conclusions of the panel. Try as they might - you would only have to experience a Generations Con once, to be put off completely. This was a quote from an Irish fan, who did not appreciate the Albert Hall experience.

Majel and Diane, who know of what has occurred in the States, spoke none too kindly about the Professionals' attitudes towards the successful Fan Con organisers. If there is success, they have a tendency to use that market which the Fan Cons have already prepared. At present two professional UK company-run Con organisers plan to come to Ireland

- cashing in on the work both Timewarp and Irecon have done over the years. One Con is rumoured to run this summer, some 2 months before Irecon5 - but nothing has been confirmed yet! One Manchester fan club organiser came up to me at Timewarp and said "What can we do about the Professionals moving in on our markets?"

The fans and panel members came out with these ideas!

1. Firstly we have to weigh up the Pros and Cons - because in the long run the fans should have a choice.
2. The fans should be able to tell the difference between fan-run and professional-run cons, and then make up their own minds. The fan cons are the ones which have a charity, the Professional Cons are the ones done as a business. Look for a Charity if as a fan you have chosen not to go to Pro. Cons.
3. The fan organisers should work together, BUT without loss of individual styles and freedom to run the Cons as you wish.



THE FUTURE OF STAR TREK FANDOM?

Star Trek Welcommittee received the following report from Jan Jackson, their Australian representative:

AUSTREK was invited by the Australian representatives of Paramount Pictures to attend a meeting on Monday 20 March 1995 with a senior official from Paramount's Licensing Department, as were representatives from other Star Trek fan clubs throughout Australia. Rowena Christiansen and I attended to represent AUSTREK's interests at this meeting, for which no agenda was provided beforehand. To put things in factual terms, Paramount's representative communicated the following points.

- Paramount's position is that fan clubs have been costing it money by using its intellectual property without paying for this use. That will stop.
- No Star Trek videos of any kind are to be shown at meetings of any club. (An application for a non-theatrical licence would be *considered*, but *only* for episodes that had been televised here in Australia and released on sell-through video in Australia.)
- No unlicensed or non-locally sourced licenced Star Trek materials are to be sold by fan clubs.
- There will be no more unlicensed conventions. All Star Trek conventions MUST be licensed but they will NOT be exclusive to "Star Trek, The Official Fan Club of Australia".

The issues that are still to be resolved include whether fan clubs can describe themselves as Star Trek fan clubs, eg in their names, and the continuing production of club newsletters.

We were informed that Australia is the first country for the introduction of these new guidelines but that these changes will be made world-wide. The official stated that

Paramount does not wish to close down Star Trek fan clubs but it will be resolute and vigilant in protecting its intellectual property in order to ensure its continued profitability. Legal action will be forthcoming where breaches occur.

We have been told to expect correspondence from Paramount giving us more specific information on the changes they require.

We decided to bring this to your attention because some of you are bound to hear rumours. It seems strange that Paramount should try this in Australia first but it could be because they have different copyright laws over there. In this country (and America) there are laws that say that if you have been doing something for long enough without any objection you can carry on doing it. We don't know the details of that law here but no doubt some of you do.

So how could we be affected in the UK if Paramount decides to enforce their copyright? The following is just our personal views:

We think IDIC should be okay as to our best knowledge we don't break any copyright laws.

Zines - this is more questionable. We've published Classic Trek and TNG zines for years so we could probably continue to so. DS9 and Voyager zines could be more of a problem. Paramount *are* clamping down on zines. Janet recently advertised a US member's zine on Usenet and he got a cease and desist communication from Paramount. Obviously we have to be careful where we advertise zines.

Conventions - The main problem here could be showing videos. Conventions may not be able to advertise themselves as Star Trek Conventions but we don't see how they could be prevented from calling them 'Conventions for Star Trek Fans'. As far as we know there are no licensed Star Trek conventions and

while Stargazer Conventions are cancelled. professional we don't think they have a license from Paramount. The Malta Convention was licensed but that has been

We will be interested in hearing your views on this.



HOW TO START A STAR TREK CLUB

by Dave Styles

In a recent newsletter Maureen Norton mentioned that she'd like to host "Star Trek Meetings". As my telephone number is given in the back of each Newsletter advertising "my" local group, I have had a few people phone me asking how one goes about starting a Star Trek fan club. This is what I did

A couple of years ago I met someone in my home town who liked Star Trek, and I mentioned that we should form a club. My new friend put an article in a local paper, and we soon held a first meeting of seven people. Word soon got about, and now we have a membership of about thirty adults, and heaven knows how many in our "Cadets", a group started to meet the need for an ST club for teenagers. It is an interesting point that despite several newspaper articles (papers like pictures of Trekkers!) newspaper articles/adverts attracted less than a third of our membership. Our group grew through "word of mouth".

I'm also a member of one or two other ST clubs. Let me review a few other Star Trek clubs with which I am acquainted.

There is the "Official" fan club. One point which any potential ST fan club must be clear on is that there is only one "Official" ST fan club in the UK. Anything anyone else organises is entirely "off their own bat".

Obviously there's IDIC. It's marvellous because it puts me in touch with people across the UK (and beyond). I regard IDIC as my primary means of keeping in touch with fandom.

I'm also a member of a supposedly Kent-wide Star Trek club which seems to attempt to mimic IDIC, but fails. To be honest any ST

fan club which concentrates on a Newsletter to the exclusion of all else needs a massive mailing list in order to get contributors. The strength of IDIC's newsletter is that it has a lot of regular contributors. Many smaller ST clubs which put a lot of emphasis on their club magazine often find themselves copying out the latest edition of TV Zone in order to fill space, due to lack of contributions.

There is another small ST club on the Sussex coast which seems to be rather formal, with a "Captain" and all the other Officers have "ranks". Seems awfully "organised" to me, but each to their own. However it always seems to me that any formal hierarchy is rather off-putting to newcomers.

There's a selection of whats out there. Now down to the practicalities of forming your own Star Trek fan club! An advert in a local paper, I think, is a must. You could pay for a classified ad or, alternatively, approach a journalist on a local paper. An article on Trekkers would make their day; they like Trekkers! (I made front page headline news in two local papers recently when I led a few people (eighty-four) to see "Generations").

Once you've made some contacts, meeting these people is a priority. You could invite them to your home. I did. However in retrospect I was very lucky. I have met people who have had bad experiences inviting strangers into their homes. You could get a few friends to pretend to be Trekkers on your first night, or possibly one of your new-found contacts might be prepared to play host. Alternatively you could hire a hall. This would cost about twenty pounds, and you would be on "dodgy ground" (a legal term?) for showing videos.

You will now need to decide on the

"style" of your club. My local group has made a point of having no rules at all; however I think that any organisation is legally required to have some rules. I'm sure a trip to the local library would sort out what you need to put down in black and white. A weekly sub to cover refreshments is useful. I have found that 50p per week per person is ample.

The style of your club will dictate what

you actually do. Video watching is a must! I'd also suggest trying role-playing games, interactive VCR games, customisable card games, pub nights (find a Trekker landlord and have a theme night!). If you actually get to the point of finding activities for your club, phone me up; I'll invite your group down for a Barbecue.



SPOCK

by Tracy Saunders

When I first started to watch Star Trek, I was greatly intrigued by the character Mr Spock. I remember when I was younger I was completely fascinated by Spock. To me, Spock was - and still is - someone who was chosen to 'look at us' from an outside view. He was showing us how we *really are*.

Other fans may disagree with me, but I have always considered Vulcan as starting off like our own planet. I assume that it was the pollution, and maybe a war (say like a nuclear war) that made them come to their senses, so to speak. I would like to hear other people's comments about this.

There has also been a mystery about Spock that I find fascinating. For a start, there is a religion on Vulcan. I have tried many a time to work out why a 'logical' society would have need of a religion. Please don't think I am getting at Gene Roddenberry for including this. It is just that I find it interesting for a logical society to have need of a 'belief' of some sort. The only conclusion that I can think of is that however logical or civilised a society can get, there will always be that need for reassurance that there is a purpose and all that goes on around us is done for a reason, and we need (whoever we are) some reassurance in this life. Maybe the people of Vulcan realise that they could have annihilated themselves completely, but something prevented that and maybe they formed a religion to remind them of this fact. I would like to know what other fans think about this.

Seeing that this article is about Spock, I shall get back to the person in question. I believe that Gene Roddenberry was very clever in making Spock half Human, mainly because in that way we are allowed to see that famous relationship between Spock, Kirk and McCoy. As every Trek fans knows, Spock has got admiration for McCoy, even though he does try his hardest to hide it!

This now brings me to another question that I frequently ask myself. Why did Spock join Starfleet? I doubt if I have got the right answer, so, as before, if anyone has any better ideas then please express them.

I would imagine that Spock joined Starfleet because of his Human half. As Humans we are never satisfied until we have learned more. Seeing that Spock is also a scientist (I don't know if Spock learned this in Starfleet or on Vulcan, maybe someone can enlighten me) so he must have a very inquisitive mind in the first place. Maybe it was just that he wanted to explore the stars and to seek other life forms. The reason why I say this is because, as we have seen, Spock chose to come and rejoin the Enterprise crew in ST:TMP.

In all fairness to Spock, I do think that his logical side over-rides the Human half, because who would give up their own life for the sake of others? That is regardless of the fact that he knew he would be reincarnated (if that is the right word).



DR MCCOY

by Tracy Saunders

Dr McCoy has always been one of my favourite characters, so naturally I had to write about him!

Dr McCoy always comes over as being a person who gets into a bit of a frenzy, especially when he has to deal with that chap with the 'pointed ears'! As we all know, McCoy thinks the world of Spock, even though he tries his hardest to hide it.

It is a very hard job to look after a lot of people, especially on a ship the size of the Enterprise. So in that case there must be something special about the person who is responsible for these people. As we know, this is the case with Dr McCoy.

What makes McCoy so special? I hear you ask. Well, the obvious reason is that McCoy has got a special way with people. He has a great way of getting people relaxed, and most important of all is the way that he 'teaches' his patients to be able to cure themselves (with his help, of course).

There is always the fact that McCoy is 'down to Earth', so to speak. Saying this brings to mind a question I quite often ask myself. Why did McCoy decide to join Starfleet? We all know that McCoy feels insecure where the technology of the Enterprise is concerned, especially where the transporter is concerned. You would think

that a man like that would feel safer on ground level.

We are told only a small fraction of McCoy's past, but one thing brings to mind why he decided to join Starfleet. That, of course, was the breakup of this marriage. We know that this had a great effect on him because he didn't even confide in his close friend Jim Kirk. A lot of people do try and forget their past and start a new life, and this is the way that McCoy has been able to forget his past.

The most appealing part about McCoy is that he is the most 'human' of the original crew. He is never afraid to show his feelings and he is always making irrational decisions, which of course to Spock is totally illogical! That is what makes the McCoy/Spock relationship so special.

I think that what makes Star Trek so special is the fact that Dr McCoy, who is the most human of all the crew and is a representative of ourselves, has a special friendship with an alien who is totally different from ourselves. That is one of the many lessons that we are taught through Star Trek, that we can be friends with someone else, even if they do look different. I believe that this is one of the most important lessons that Star Trek teaches us.



CAUSE AND EFFECT

by Stephen Daniels

I have a couple of points to take issue with concerning the 5th season TNG episode Cause and Effect. In this episode the Enterprise was caught in a time loop and kept reliving the same chunk of time over and over again. I thought this was an excellent episode directed by Jonathan Frakes, but the following somewhat spoiled it for me.

The story so far: while investigating the Typhon Expanse the crew seem to experience déjà vu (especially during a game of poker) which they just accept at first. Later on things start to go wrong and the ship loses all its power, then another ship appears from a void on a collision course with the Enterprise. They try to alter its direction with the tractor beam but this fails and the


ships collide resulting in the spectacular explosion of the Enterprise and, presumably, all hands, legs, big toes and torsos on board being lost.

The next thing we see is the Enterprise cruising along again, quite the thing, with the previously mentioned poker game going on, but this time the crew's feelings of having done this before are stronger. Again the sequence of events, culminating in the ships' destruction happens. This goes on a few times, and every time the *deja vu* gets stronger. Eventually they figure out what is going on - they are caught in a temporal causality loop - and deduce that to break the loop they must avoid the collision with the other ship (as it was the resulting explosion that caused the loop in the first place) which, of course, they do.

They discover that the ship they collided with so many times was the USS Bozeman, a Soyuz Class Starship (which has been out of commission for over 80 years). We discover that the Bozeman has been caught in a loop for 90-odd years, but what I don't understand

is how it and the Enterprise's loops are connected! What happened 90 years ago to cause the Bozeman to go into a loop? (Captain Bateman didn't mention anything happening since he left Starbase 'three weeks' earlier... no explosions, etc). How did the Enterprise enter the Bozeman's loop and *how* did the Enterprise bring them out of *their* loop?!!

Also if the crew on the Enterprise were getting *deja vu* strong enough to predict playing cards and other events after 17.4 days, surely the intrepid explorers on board the Bozeman would be predicting every event with 100% accuracy after 90 years!! When Worf identified the Bozeman he made no mention of it disappearing 90 years ago, and when Captain Picard identified his vessel, Bateman - apparently oblivious of what was going on - didn't say "Hey, wait a minute, the Enterprise is Kirk's ship!"

Could someone give please me a reasonable explanation for what was otherwise an excellent episode. 

DS9 - THE TRILL

by Sheila Clark

Several people have expressed reservations about the alien race, the Trill, which we first saw in the fourth season TNG episode *The Host*. The Trill Odan at first appeared to be an intelligent creature which was dependent on its humanoid host for mobility, etc, and it was indicated that the symbiote was in control of the body it inhabited. This was underlined when the host died and Riker volunteered to be a surrogate host until a new host of the Trill race could arrive, since the symbiote was an ambassador on a vital mission. The creature took over Riker's body *and mind*. But when the new host arrived, it was obvious that it was not a mindless animal that just happened to have a humanoid appearance. (And even if it was, surely even an unreasoning animal that lives by instinct has a right to its own existence.)

From what we saw in *The Host*, it seemed that the 'symbiote' was in fact a parasite, and it was difficult to see what, if anything, the host got out of the relationship.

A 'guest race' who appeared in one episode could be passed off with an 'I'm not too sure about the morality of this', especially since the main theme of the episode was the attraction Dr Crusher felt for Odan (though I had some doubts that the slug-like symbiote creature could be attracted to a humanoid) and her inability to maintain that attraction when faced with her 'love' in a female body. Since a Trill is appearing as a major character in DS9, however, that question of morality arose as a major issue.

In *The Host*, we weren't shown how the Trill symbiote was transferred from one native host to the next, but it was put inside

Riker by surgical means. In the DS9 pilot, however, when the Trill Dax was transferred from its dying elderly host Curzon to the new host Jadzia it appeared that surgical intervention was not needed; it seemed that the native host was physically adapted to accept the symbiote. That's a bit better; the two species had clearly evolved side by side over a long period, and for that to happen does argue some degree of reciprocity.

It seems, however, that the producers of DS9 were aware of the problem. The seventh episode, Dax, addresses it. In this episode, Jadzia Dax is accused of murder - thirty years previously, when the host was Curzon. Sisko calls for a Bajoran arbitrator to decide whether Jadzia can be extradited from Bajoran space, and the enquiry revolves around whether Jadzia Dax is the same person as Curzon Dax, and the relationship between symbiote and host. It is made clear that the host is highly intelligent, and a well-educated - *extremely* well-educated - volunteer for the position, and that the two minds work together. Although Dax has carried Curzon's memories into Jadzia's body, it is made clear that Jadzia Dax is *not* the same being as Curzon Dax.

It seems to me, therefore, that the relationship is as follows - the long-lived symbiote provides its much-shorter-lived partner with knowledge and experience it has acquired through living/sharing with several hosts (one hopes the host is interested in whatever subject(s) the Trill knows, though since (s)he is a volunteer it seems likely that the assigned symbiote will be one with similar interests); the host controls the body, provides mobility, and possibly additional knowledge which the symbiote then carries on to its next host, several decades on. That's a relationship that *would* be symbiotic, and one I could live with. (It doesn't really mesh with the character of the Trill in *The Host*, where it was indicated that the 'symbiote' was in control of the body it inhabited, but it seems more logical. It also makes a bit more sense of *The Host* - even though in the episode it was quite clear that it was the symbiote who fell in love with her - if you argue that the male host was attracted to Crusher, and the symbiote carried that

attraction to the next host, thinking it was doing both the host and Crusher a favour.)

Although - if the long-lived symbiote shifts from male host to female host without any apparent trauma, what sex is it, and how does it breed? And how does a young and inexperienced one cope with its first host? What does the first host get from the partnership?

One thing that did occur to me - was Odan an atypical symbiote? Was it more normal for the partnership to be just that - a two-way relationship - but Odan had a lust for power, or an ego that believed the mobile hosts were an inferior species, that led him to suppress the personality of his hosts? I suppose it could be perfectly possible for the odd symbiote to be - well, insane by Trill standards, but be cunning enough to hide the fact, especially if they were so skilled at their job that their sanity was never questioned.

P.S. - After I wrote the above I found a bit in the TNG Starlog (no 22) about it. Michel Horvat, who wrote *The Host*, is quoted as saying he had worked out an extensive background for the race, though that was not included in the written story. He says, "These are... average humans, who realise that the symbiotic joining brings them higher intellect, longevity and structure to their lives, where before the joining there wasn't any... There was a whole backstory where these humanoids who took on the Trill were bred specifically for the task of being hosts."

Unfortunately, all that was not, I feel, made clear in the episode *The Host*. Maybe Dax is an attempt to correct that oversight.



STAR TREK:VOYAGER

• **Martin Stahl** - The credits were perhaps overloaded with too many SFX of nebulae, planets, etc.

While Encounter at Farpoint and Emissary suffered from many scenes introducing the characters, Caretaker merged those scenes well in the plot (similarly to The Cage). I could identify with most of the characters at once. Captain Janeway is a strong, but yet attractive woman and is surely more qualified to captain a starship than the captain of the Enterprise-B in Generations! Chakotay, Tom Paris and Harry Kim are also interesting characters, while I still have some difficulty with Tuvok - he just looks rather un-Vulcan. The same (indeed, even bigger) problem is with B'Elanna Torres. K'Ehleyr looked better as a half-Klingon. Kes had not enough to do to allow me an opinion. Neelix is very ugly but also very interesting; he is similar to Quark but not as sly as the Ferengi. (Quark had a nice scene at the beginning while Voyager is docked at DS9, trying to sell some products to Harry Kim. This integration works very well - it is Quark as we know him - and we even catch a glimpse of Morn in the corner. Picard's incorporation into Emissary never worked for me.)

Doc Zimmerman, the holographic character, can it seems leave the holodeck - in fact he is in sickbay; we never see the holodeck at all. He can also touch things. It is difficult for me to believe in the concept of a holographic doctor, but put that problem aside, and there is a wonderful character; one of the highest potential in the series, I think.

It is too early to judge a whole series from its pilot, but I'm looking forward to further episodes.

• **Sheila Clark** - I enjoyed this more than I'd expected to. The story moves well, and there seems to be considerable potential for some good inter-character relationships; I just hope that the producers and writers avoid too much serious internal conflict. I know that conflict is seen as providing a basis for good

drama, but realistically, in an enclosed environment such as a spaceship, especially one in this situation where there is no way of escaping from it (by transfer, for example) a clash of personalities could lead to murder.

I do have one or two quibbles. A holographic doctor doesn't fit in with the technology already established in TNG and DS9; I felt they would have been better having, as doctor, someone with nothing more than a reasonable knowledge of first aid - a situation that could provide a considerable amount of drama.

Whether I will actually accept the show as Star Trek, or consider it a good SF show that is ST-related, I don't know yet. Having a female Captain doesn't bother me, though it might bother some people; Kate Mulgrew makes a decisive enough Captain for me to accept her. I liked Tuvok, although Tim Russ isn't quite as expressively deadpan as Leonard Nimoy. I liked Harry Kim, although Garrett Wang doesn't have quite the panache of George Takei (but then, who does?). Neelix is an interesting character and Kes more mature than might be expected of someone from a race with a life-span of only 9 years. The other regulars? I hesitate to pass an opinion yet.

I can see Tuvok being my favourite character; but with Voyager 70+ years' travel from Vulcan, I have to admit to wondering just what will happen when he hits port far!

• **Jo Healy** - I have seen the first episodes of Voyager. I thought that The Caretaker was a good introduction to the series, and I can already see Neelix becoming my favourite character. (There's one for Matthew Hemsley already!)

• **Judith Taylor** - The second spin off from Next Gen, with a basic premise that sounds like an amalgamation of Red Dwarf meets Blake's Seven encounters Lost in Space. I must say I was surprised by this latest offering from the people who took up the Star Trek reins. The characters are strong and

believable.

The basic story line is that a large being known as the Caretaker has been snatching ships looking for a genetic pattern similar to its own so that it can procreate. As you can guess our characters are picked on and flung across the galaxy along with their ships to be tested to see if they are compatible. After a lot of running about with the characters being tested on, crew going missing and the Federation and Maquis joining forces, the Caretaker dies, the array is destroyed to stop any of the local powers trying to use it to gain the upper hand in a bitter power struggle, they are trapped in the delta quadrant with no way home. And so the search begins.

The story is not as good as it could be; though action packed and occasionally tense it is a typical pilot. The characters are not really established, I got the impression the episode was a Janeway-Paris episode, with a bit of B'Elanna and Harry thrown in for good measure. Chakotay was not used very much and I really failed to see his importance to the whole plot except for the Paris-Chakotay storyline which was established. The explanation by the Caretaker could have been better handled, the story still not making perfect sense even after he explained it all. I was left with major questions still in my head. What happened to the baby Caretakers, if they were baby caretakers? Why snatch Alpha Quadrant lifeforms and not his own quadrant's? But apart from this, not bad. Despite my prior convictions I find myself drawn to this series, which is definitely a back to basics series. Let's just hope though that the Deep Space Nine series is not sacrificed for this series as was the sixth series of TNG.

• **Taruka Quauhtezcatl** - "Oh by the way, I've something to show you." With these words I was introduced to the first episode of Voyager and, despite the things I'd heard, I liked it!

What makes this series are the strong characters; Captain Janeway, a captain who knows her own mind, finally the powerful woman on the bridge as envisioned by Gene

Roddenberry as far back as The Cage; and the similarity between Janeway and Gene's Number One is striking.

Tuvok, the Vulcan Security officer - I presume the actor has studied Leonard Nimoy's portrayal of Spock very carefully, because that's exactly who he reminded me of. The speech patterns and even some of the mannerisms were there.

Tom Parris, Helmsman, Thadiun Okona with a bit of common sense. His love-hate relationship with Chakotay is going to be worth watching.

Chakotay is a bit of a mystery. I'm going to hold off commenting until I've more information.

The storyline is actually a recycled one. Where else have Trek fans heard the story of a childlike race being guarded by an entity who provides for their every need? Hands up those who said The Apple or Justice. The Caretaker of the story falls into this category. There are a few plot holes!

By the way, Janeway is responsible for them being stranded in the Delta Quadrant. This comes close to, if not over, the line of the Prime Directive. She breaks it.

I usually measure series' merit on how easily I could draft a story set within its parameters. Or put another way, how clearly-defined the characters are. The more work which has gone into their believability, the more I like the series. I think most people will by now have guessed that Voyager is going to be a definite addition to my Trek collection.

If Voyager is as well-received by the general public as it was by me, then Deep Space Nine may well find itself with difficulties in keeping an audience, which is a shame. However, time will tell.

• **Michael Flett** - I saw Caretaker a couple of weeks back and was very disappointed. Even in Emissary there was a solid plot and a few good characters. This was just so bland and the only characters I got any feeling from,

what I felt was dislike. Okay, the opening scroll was way too trite and the dialogue too smart - but as soon as it said "Federation Penal Colony", I was like, No *way*! I didn't like the 'just happening to drop into conversation all these technical specifications and warp figures' about the ship, and I especially hate superpowers who create Earth-type environments with banjo-plucking, cousin-dating barefoot hicks.

Okay, it's just the premise. And yes, the titles are gorgeous, with movement and colour - blue is predominant and it always makes me think of home. It did improve through the ninety minutes, but not enough, and it blew it with Janeway's 'our mission' speech and the oh-so-subtle Thomas *Eugene* Paris introduction. Our stomachs seriously lurched - it is so crass, the way they axe Gene's show to make way for their own interpretation, and then say, "We remember him, oh yes".

• **Anne-Marie Flowers** - All you doubting Thomases out there are in for a treat!

Whoever did the casting deserves a medal. This crew is already well-gelled. Kate Mulgrew is like a young Katherine Hepburn although she's a bit too touchy-feely for my taste. I think Chakotay was also too submissive in this episode but I predict he's going to be hard as nails in future. B'Elanna Torres seems like a clone of Ro - same attitude, different nose. Tom Paris is even more a clone of Nick Locarno (First Duty) which isn't surprising since he is played by the same gorgeous actor and has a very similar history (ie promising young officer gone wrong). Personally I think they should have stuck with Locarno but Rick Berman said that Nick's character was 'beyond redemption'. Pity.

I know a lot of fans were worried about Tuvok, the Vulcan Security Officer. Actually, I thought the character worked very well although I would describe his role as closer to Intelligence than Security.

Wait till you see Doc Zimmerman - a sarcastic hologram from the Charles Winchester (M.A.S.H.) school of medicine.

I didn't agree with Janeway's reasoning regarding the Prime Directive at the end. Nevertheless, she gave a wonderfully rousing speech which left me with a very positive impression. Yes - this *is* Star Trek and I, for one, will be with them on their journey.

By the way, Berman confirmed that the only familiar faces likely to appear are Q, Wes and The Borg!

• **Alan Stephen** - When Paramount's execs decided to milk their cash cow Star Trek one more time, to bring their fledgeling United Paramount Network to as large an audience as possible, I was prepared for the worst. Fortunately, it turns out that for a show born of such blatant commercial motives, ST:Voyager is a little gem. Where the original Trek was about innocent exploration, TNG about benign imperialism and DS9 about the furrows in Avery Brooks' brow, Voyager is about journeying home. Some may decide this makes Voyager too soft, because of its emotional core. Some may even say Voyager wimps out because it has a woman as its captain. Some have even called her 'Wrongway'.

Kate Mulgrew is a fine actor who avoids Avery Brooks' distractedness, has more warmth than Patrick Stewart and more expressiveness than William Shatner. She gets strong support from Robert Beltran as the Maquis leader Chakotay, who has little black squiggly lines drawn on his left brow - hopefully we'll find out what they mean in the future. Roxann Biggs-Dawson is a half-Klingon/half-Human chief engineer who's cranky all the time, Tim Russ brings to his character (the Vulcan Tuvok) a most welcome wryness and restraint, while the show's comic relief comes from Neelix (Ethan Phillips) one of the now resident aliens (the other being his lover Kes (Jennifer Lien)) and the hologram doctor (Doc Zimmerman) played by Robert Picardo, who gets small character moments but seems to steal every scene. The cast is rounded off by Robert Duncan McNeill as Tom Paris, the resident ship's stud, and Garrett Wang as Harry Kim, the intergalactic innocent.

But while the pilot started off strongly, the episodes following it have been very weak. I've seen up to Phage which is about the best of the episodes. I look forward to some conflict between Starfleet officers and the Maquis - they have become smiley, happy Voyagers too easily.

- **Ruth Borgars** - On Voyager - Have now seen the pilot episode which has distinct possibilities except I shall tire of B'Elanna Torres' whingeing and tantrums very quickly; I predict that Holodoc Zimmerman will be among the first of the new cast to get his very own fan club; Tuvok works so far rather well (apropos of the debate about Vulcan Security Officers - their job is surely not primarily an aggressive one but to prevent trouble before it starts and to preserve fellow officers' safety - a logical and worthy objective; any Vulcan in Starfleet will have resolved the question of the carrying and use of deadly weapons long before (s)he is commissioned).

- **John Stubbley** - I've just seen the Voyager pilot (don't ask how.... ahem). It's quite decent for a pilot (better than Farpoint, and probably Emissary). My compliments to the actor who plays Tuvok, the Vulcan security officer. He has the Vulcan mannerisms down to a tee! I would like to see what they do with his character. I'm still not sure about him being in charge of Security though! The new captain is very good. You can see why she got her command.

- **Baerbel Schmidt** - I love Voyager! It is already my favourite Star Trek series and Captain Janeway is my favourite Captain. I don't deny that I like her because I am female and am glad about this development, but that is not the main reason. I think Janeway is a natural leader who is excellent at working with people and knitting them together into a good team. She has authority but also has the qualities many describe as female; to be able to listen, to be gentle and understanding where it is appropriate. What I also like is her sense of justice. I wonder if Picard would have destroyed the Array? After the seventh season (and especially his shameful attitude in Homeward) I doubt it very much.

I liked all the characters from the beginning and that is the first time that this has happened. It is great to see a Vulcan again! I would like to tell the sceptics that he is certainly no copy of Spock and that he is a very interesting contrast to Worf. Tuvok approaches violence with logic, something he showed in a very impressive way in Ex Post Facto, a detective story that reminded me immediately of DS9's Necessary Evil. I think Vulcan fans especially can really look forward to it.

Another outstanding character is certainly the holographic doctor. Most people I know say he is their favourite character. I also like him very much but so far I can't decide between Janeway, Tuvok and the doctor. I was very sceptical when I heard about this character first but I found out quickly that I was wrong. Since DS9's Shadowplay I've started to change my attitude towards holograms and I think it is interesting and touching that Kes accepted him from the beginning as a person. The doctor is a great source of humour and his struggle to go beyond his programming reminded me a great deal of Data.

I would say Voyager combines the good elements of Classic and the good elements of TNG. I can imagine that this series will appeal to many Classic fans, not only because of Tuvok but also because Janeway is a passionate woman of action, not unlike Kirk. Fortunately, however, she hasn't the annoying habit of starting affairs with the other sex.

Unlike TNG, in which serious conflicts between the main characters are very rare, there are problems in the relationships not unlike in the early DS9 stories; but I think in essence that this series is very positive, conflicts between the main characters are solved and people learn from them. We have to wait and see what will happen now after Prime Factors, which could be a dramatic turning point. I can hardly wait to find out what will happen next!

- **Russell Witheyman** - Having just seen the first 7 episodes of ST:Voy, I thought I'd comment on the progress of the series so far.

**USS VOYAGER
NCC-74656**



• **Edward Woo** -
Like many ST fans I
was sceptical about
Voyager so soon
after TNG and in

direct competition to DS9;
it could have waited a few years.

The pilot episode (Caretaker) is probably the best ST pilot so far, but as with all pilots it's more of an introduction to the characters than anything else. The opening sequence is also the best so far, the theme of Jerry Goldsmith is excellent, although more reminiscent of DS9 than TNG. As for the characters, I think I am happier with this set of characters than those on DS9. Kate Mulgrew is quite engaging as Capt Janeway. She has already proven herself a good actress and I'm sure she will excel in the role.

My personal fave is the Doctor, as portrayed by Robert Picardo (no pun there, I'm sure!) - his bedside manner is plain rude and he also has a sarcastic sense of humour. I think he will become a firm favourite with everybody, along with Neelix, who is also good. Tim Russ's Tuvok is the best Vulcan since Spock I've seen. Russ has obviously studied Vulcans very hard, especially Nimoy, and has already proven himself more than competent in the role.

Robert Duncan McNeill's Tom Paris comes across as a bit of a ladies' man (well, there's always one, isn't there!) and a lovable rogue. The characters played by Garrett Wong, Jennifer Lien, Robert Beltran and Roxanne Biggs Dawson have yet to develop properly, although it's still early days.

So far the series has produced seven good although not amazing episodes, which are better than TNG's or DS9's opening episodes, which is a good sign.

The series is already proving to be a worthy successor to TNG and I think this series will really start to find its feet in the second season; but the characters do seem to be more settled in the roles than those of TNG's or DS9's actors. The verdict? Well, so far, so good...

I was lucky enough to see it recently, and was surprised how good it was. It was a similar feeling to when DS9 first arrived. The opening credits of the ship and its music are similar to DS9's theme - not the upbeat music of TNG, but I liked it immediately.

The characters I instantly enjoyed were Kathryn T Janeway. She is tough but sensitive. Her words "Don't call me sir - or ma'am; Captain will do" just stands out for me. Kate Mulgrew looks and feels the part. Tuvok, our first major Vulcan since Spock, looks and speaks very logically (to coin a phrase). Next, Harry Kim, our new operations officer. I could be biased (he being Chinese American) but I like him; he's down to earth. As everyone will know, the idea of a holographic doctor is a rip-off of Red Dwarf, but the actual character is very good with his one-liners and attitude.

The character of Tom Paris, our new conn officer, seems to be based on Ensign Ro's Starfleet disgrace; I don't really like him. I am unsure of Chakotay (a Maquis) but he needs time to grow on me. B'Elanna Torres, the half Human/half Klingon reminds me too much of K'Ehlyr. No doubt the producers have decided to use this as a concept for the character. As for Kes and Neelix, I reserve judgement, waiting for them to develop.

Even though much was made of the first woman Captain, the command crew still looks and feels lop-sided in favour of the male characters. Tuvok, Paris and Kim (at least) could have been female characters. I would also have liked another alien - say a Benzite or even a pair of Binars, if the Federation is truly representative of alien cultures.



SEASON 7 - *הסיוון* מ

by Steve Davies

After reading what everyone else thinks of 7th season TNG I thought it was time I put down a few lines. A lot of members got to see this months before I did, so after reading everyone else's comments I approached season 7 with already mixed feelings. It's not *that* bad!

Descent Pt II was a bit of a disappointment in that everything seemed to happen in the 1st five minutes. Wouldn't it have been better as a *three* parter? The building on the planet was all very tasteful with its red and black decor, but somehow I would expect something a little more utilitarian from the Borg. It was a nice touch to use the 'metaphasic shielding' theory from Suspicions, but as I didn't like that episode anyway the idea didn't really work - the Borg ship was disposed of far too easily!

Liaisons I thought was brilliant!... until the ending where we find out it's all a ridiculous experiment thought up by the alien ambassadors. It makes you wonder what would've happened if Picard and the woman survivor *had* got a little... ahem... friendlier!

Interface is another that had the potential to be a great story. The tension just builds and builds, and then... we find out Geordi's mother is really dead after all that. What *was* the actual probe that Geordi was controlling? Was it a robot body or a space probe or what? I may have missed something after only watching it once, but I don't think they ever explained that.

Gambit was great from beginning to end. I really couldn't wait to go out and get part II. I find that a lot of TNG aliens are starting to look rather 'samey', as if Michael Westmore is starting to run out of ideas. What happened to Andorians, Bolians and Nausicans? One of the best two-parter TNG has had.

Phantasms was weird. Good, but weird. I think Data stabbing Troi was a little too

strong, I think it would've gone far enough if he had been stopped as he was *about* to stab her. As a big fan of Spot the cat it was nice to see him/her/(it?) back, and also nice to see that I'm not the only one who has a sneezing fit when I pick up a cat!! Where did Troi get that 'Data cake'? I want one.

Dark Page was full of the same sort of weirdness, so much so I was beginning to think it was a second part to Phantasms. Apart from that (and the telepath with the unnerving stare!) I enjoyed it, a real tear-jerker and a nice surprise to see the vulnerable side of Lwaxana Troi.

Attached - I liked a lot, although it did have more than a passing resemblance to a film Rutger Hauer made a few years back called *Wedlock*. This was another story that really had potential and could've been developed into a two-parter, but instead, when it got really interesting, it just sort of petered out. As for the ending, dear oh dear - Picard and Beverly need their heads knocked together. What a wasted opportunity!

Let me say something I know will raise a few eyebrows - I think *Lessons* was one of the best TNG episodes ever. I loved every minute of it!

Now, what do I think of DS9? I like it a lot, but if I go out and buy a TNG video and a DS9 one, I'll always watch the TNG first.

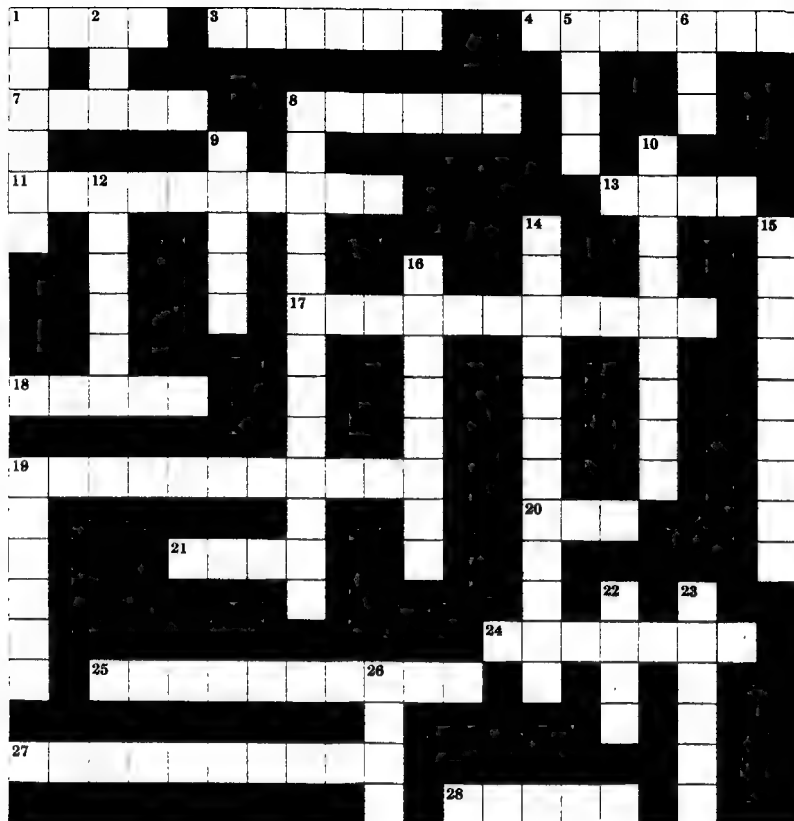
Why is everyone saying DS9 doesn't have the same magic? Of course it does, particularly with Quark and Odo. I really didn't think Star Trek without the Enterprise would work but it does, and I hope it lasts as long as TNG.

Hey, if the Enterprise is supposedly destroyed in ST Generations, does that mean in ST Generations Picard and Co will be flying around in a rusty old Klingon bird of prey collecting whales from 20th century San Francisco?



CROSSWORD

by Katrina Heintz & Susan Bell



ACROSS

1. The nurse from The Dauphin (4)
3. Paul Winfield played a character from this 5th season episode (6)
- 4 and 24 across. Which American President appeared in Star Trek (7,7)
7. The Starfleet hero Kirk met in a mental institution (5)
8. Spock's fiancée (6)
11. The game Data played in Peak Performance (10)
13. Data's twin (4)
17. He composed music for both Star Trek & The Man from Uncle (6,5)
18. Vulcans pass this on at point of death (5)
19. He did the voice of the alien in Squire of Gothos (5,6)
20. Kirk's brother (3)
21. Worf's brother (4)
24. See 4 across
25. Starfleet conspirator in ST:VI (10)
27. Nickname for Star Trek props (10)
28. Spock's love rival (5)

DOWN

1. The month costumes/makeup were screen tested for STTMP (6)
2. Tasha? (3)
5. She took an oath of celibacy (4)
6. DS9 security officer (3)

9. Major Kira? (5)
10. Scotty used this to communicate his intentions in ST:V (5,4)
12. Captain April's christian name (6)
14. This is named after the set designer (8,4)
15. Enterprise's power source (9)
16. Data's pen pal (8)
- 19 and 23 down. Siddiq el Fadil? (6,6)
22. He 'stole' Data (4)
23. See 18 down
26. The enemy from Arena (4)

Answer page 87

ENTERPRISE

by Peter Carmody

A personal look at an old friend.

Who can call himself or herself a true Trek fan and not be in love with the ship carrying the name ENTERPRISE?

When she was destroyed in THE SEARCH FOR SPOCK I wonder how many fans felt as hurt as when Spock died. To many the Enterprise is more than just the vehicle which carries the characters from one place to another; instead she is as vibrant a person as any of the living aboard the ship.

This is to a great extent due to the care which Gene Roddenberry used in the design of a ship in a period when spaceships in television and cinema were little more than tubes with flames coming out of the rear. When you look at the original series now, look what is going on behind the central characters as they walk down a corridor. You will see people hard at work keeping the reality of a ship going.

It was not unusual to see people up tubes carrying out repair and maintenance work on the ship. Nor were you surprised to see panels off and someone deep inside. The Enterprise is probably the most realistic ship in the history of television and this was reflected by the attitude towards her by the cast. You knew that Scotty regarded the ship as a living thing and treated her as such. When he uttered the infamous comment, "The ship canna take much more, Captain!" or words to that effect, it was not just words on a script, they were the words uttered by a man who cared deeply for his charge. Jim Kirk might be the Captain but as far as Scotty was concerned he was just the driver. This

ship was his! When Spock burned out the warp drive in 'The Paradise Syndrome' Scotty was seen to be almost in tears at the damage to his 'Poor bairns'.

To a very great extent this attitude was reflected by the ship in her performance. In all her history either in TV or book or film the Enterprise NEVER let her Captain down. She might be badly damaged but she could always be relied upon to keep going no matter the situation. When Jim Kirk destroyed the Enterprise to keep her from being captured and watched her flaming through the upper atmosphere on 'Genesis' he said, "My God Bones. What have I done!?". If Enterprise ever wanted to go down, that was probably the way she wanted, fighting and protecting her Captain to the end.

Over the years the dividing line between fiction and fantasy has blurred. Witness the first U.S Space Shuttle. She was named 'ENTERPRISE', but not for the aircraft carrier carrying that name. She was named for a ship that lived in the hearts and minds of millions of Star Trek fans. We as fans regard Trek not as some sort of fantasy but as a future that we want to see come true.

In 1987 we saw the appearance of "STAR TREK THE NEXT GENERATION" with a new ship, NCC-1701-D USS ENTERPRISE Galaxy class. A new ship with a new crew who unfortunately, I am sorry to say, do not appear to love their ship with the same affection that was lavished on either the old Enterprise or her sister the Enterprise-A. She is very much regarded by the crew as just a ship to get them from point A to B and back. The only one who appears to have any

affection for the ship is Picard. Can you imagine Montgomery Scott's ship running at below Starfleet's operating specs, as Geordi La Forge lets him? As Scotty said, a true engineer always allows for leeway with specs for a ship. This probably explained why the old ship held speed records in Starfleet. Scotty had her operating above the specs for that warp drive design. If any of the designers of the Constitution class warp drive ever entered engineering they probably would not recognise their original design. A true engineer had been at work. In one case Scotty had the ship operating at over 13% better than she was ever meant to. Could La Forge ever say that? It's the difference between a Ford Escort and a Cosworth GTI.

The only crew of Enterprise in the Next Generation who can be said to even come near to loving and knowing how to treat a lady were the crew of ENTERPRISE-C. They knew that when they went back through the rift in time they would die; they also knew that Enterprise-C would give as good as she got before letting her Captain down.

If you ever want to see how a Captain should look at his ship, look no further than Kirk's inspection of ENTERPRISE in STAR TREK THE MOTION PICTURE. Look at Bill Shatner's eyes as he passes over the ship and you will see a man who has seen and come home to the ship he loves more than anything in the world. Look also at "THE VOYAGE HOME" and see the look in the crew's eyes as they see the name of their new ship.

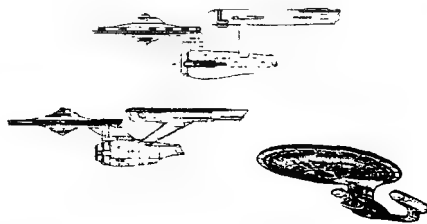
When I watched the torpedoes hitting and going through the saucer of Enterprise in "The Undiscovered Country" along with other Trek fans, it hurt to see a ship which we had grown up with over the last twenty odd years being hurt and damaged so badly. We all winced visibly when the torpedo went through the saucer. It was like watching an old friend being beaten up on the news.

It really would be unfair to lay the blame at the feet of the cast of Star Trek TNG. The blame must lie with the writers of the show who treat the Enterprise merely as a vehicle for moving the show along to the next

episode. I am sorry to say that they no longer regard the Enterprise as a member of the cast. The new ship has just not got any personality. It is merely another ship in a fleet of hundreds. This probably explains why they intend to set a new series of Star Trek, either this year or next, aboard another ship and not the Enterprise. With Deep Space 9, whilst not set aboard a starship, the writers have developed a space station which has a personality. It is a pile of junk which does not work right and is forever going wrong. (On a personal note - for my sins I work for B.R as a driver so I am well used to working with old and out of date equipment) and find the space station to be a breath of fresh air; it is more realistic than the Enterprise-D and more like the old ship which we love. She even has a chief engineer who appears to know what he is doing and can think on his feet. Whilst La Forge would still be working out how to solve a situation and developing a device to deal with it, Miles O'Brien would not only have the device working, he would be hard at work developing the upgrade for it.

Overall the cast or characters of TNG do not seem to regard their Enterprise with anything near to the love and affection that the old crew or cast of Star Trek gave their ship. This was always reflected in how the ship performed both on the screen and in novelisation of their missions aboard the Enterprise.

A point worth noting is that one thing which is definitely missing with TNG is that the Enterprise does not have any music of her own in the series. In both the old series and the films, the ship had her own music which signified her as a character in her own right. This was usually found in the horn solo which carried the the main title intro.



CIC VIDEOS

by Radcliffe Downes-Duguid

How many times are we going to fall for it? I mean, it isn't as if they haven't done it to us before, is it? I thought there were enough people doing it already without the official bodies trying it on again. What am I talking about? You've guessed it...

For die-hard Star Trek fans the policies of the companies producing Star Trek merchandise have always been a pain (mostly in the pocket), but the continual changes in the format of videos could finally be the downfall of the entrepreneurs.

When CIC Video produced *The Cage* we had the original black and white version, the colour version and a mix of the two with special words by Gene Roddenberry himself. With *Star Trek: The Motion Picture* we have the original and a Collector's Edition with additional footage. After *Star Trek V: The Final Frontier* we were blessed with a 5-film box set and when *Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country* arrived, not only could you buy a separate video, but also a new improved 6-film box set.

Next was the Widescreen Box set (to keep up with technological advances). But why keep the format changes only to the original series and its characters? There's *ST: TNG* now, some more money to add to the company's bank accounts. What would be a good way to squeeze some more money out of the people that buy the tapes? How about a collection of all the episodes of the omnipotent "Q"? What about doing the same thing for the Borg? It's Christmas soon...

But it didn't stop there. The Q and Borg Box-sets were too good, there had to be another way to make even more money now that *TNG* has finished. What about making two versions of *All Good Things...*? A Limited Edition Collector's version and a two-part cut down and miss out some of the best scenes version (for those who haven't been to a conventions and seen the original full length version, haven't read the latest sci-fi mags, haven't been given information on

the two version from a Star Trek club like IDIC or don't have contacts in the US.)

What next has CIC done? *DS9* is the only Star Trek running now, so while we wait for *ST: Voyager* to emerge let's do what all the fans wanted in the first place and make the two-part episodes one single version! The TV Movie Box-set can then be released whilst we are waiting for *Voyager* in June.

Now, adding further insult to injury, we are told from the new *Star Trek: The Official Monthly Magazine* that *Voyager* will be released in A Collector's Edition on the 6th June and the normal versions from 26th June! I believe that you get the point and may even be thinking along the same lines as me when I say that there has to be some sort of Collector's Edition for *Generations*, when it is released (to add all the scenes cut out of the cinema release back in February) and probably the same for *DS9* and *Voyager*, on top of a new 7-film box set for the feature films.

Why does this continue? Why do we put our hands in our pocket time after time after time, and still complain about it? I personally have bought The Collector's Editions of *The Emissary* and *All Good Things* and intend to buy the same for *The Caretaker* as they are true collectors items and worth the extra cost with behind the scenes footage added, as well as being limited editions. However, I will not be sucked into the frustrating position of having to buy all of the tapes in a box set and then finding that there is to be another tape added to the set - but with different designs and packaging.

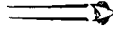
I have been a fan of Star Trek since before I can remember, but it has been only recently that I have started to collect videos, starting with *TNG* Season Seven and the feature films, so luckily I have not fallen into the trap that some of you out there have encountered. I have bought the TV Movies for *The Best of Both Worlds*, *Redemption* and *Time's Arrow*, and the pilot box-sets, but I will *not* be

buying episodes like Encounter at Farpoint, Descent, Gambit and All Good Things, which I have bought already.

It has been suggested to me that perhaps we should write to CIC and ask if we can give up the original version for the newer version because we bought, for example, the 5-film box set in good faith, thinking it was a full box set, while now you have a 6-film set out. Of course CIC may be unwilling to do

this or, if willing, may add on a fee for the "extra bit", which may be a good compromise.

The polices of such companies will not change easily, simply because they are in the business of making money in whatever way they see fit, and if we continue to buy the various versions then, quite rightly, they are simply exploiting a way to make that money, (quite successfully)



DO I NEED ANOTHER HOOK AND EYE?

The Away Team, February

Reported by Taruka Quauhtezcatl

While half the country was enjoying itself at Generations, a select group of Trek fans descended on the Hospitality Inn, Glasgow for the familiar Away Team meetings.

This was my first attendance, being called in along with Dave Houston to make up numbers in the Dealers' Room. It was also my first (though probably not my last) stint at a table.

Those who were there, in the periodic waves which signalled the end of every episode in the video rooms, could not have failed to have seen the table, it was that one draped with red and black Klingon banners. We seemed fairly popular, and sold many of the items on the table.

This was helped, I think, by the assistant manager of the CIC cinema in Paisley (I've forgotten its name) asking us if we'd do a little publicity for him. The reply was yes and he promptly deposited about 200 A3 size Generations posters on the table and asked if we could do anything with them. We did - we sold most of them by the end of the afternoon.

Among other delights which went were Bajoran noses and Vulcan ears, though our severed Romulan ears didn't seem very popular for some reason... They'll be back.

Someone said that as we were a Klingon

club, why wasn't there a Klingon on the table. My cue to get into uniform and makeup. Those who recall a ginger-haired Klingon in a costume that would make William Ware Theiss blush ever so slightly - well it is slashed clean down the front as far as my waist - now know what quite a lot of me looks like. Hence the title - I really will have to decide if it's in the interests of common decency to add another hook and eye.

I've decided that it's just not worth trying to get into video rooms at cons unless you're stewarding - too hot, too stuffy (almost asphyxiating) and you never quite get to see the whole episode for bobbing heads anyway. That means more time for socialising!!!!

Combine the video room with a quarter-inch-thick Klingon uniform and by about 2 pm I was melting. I felt like I'd lost enough weight to be in serious danger of falling out of the thing (in fact I did but I don't think anyone else noticed) and decided discretion was the better part of valour and crept back to the Ladies' loo to return my appearance to something resembling normality. Next time I'm going to keep a large glass of ice cubes under the table.

The video rooms had one definite plus. While two-thirds of the attendees were watching videos, those of us in the dealers'

room had plenty of time to browse around each others' tables uninterrupted. Result was the acquisition of two items for which Dave and I had been searching for quite some time.

Did I enjoy it? Yes, I did! Though the 450-mile round trip was exhausting (well actually we drove to Fauldhouse on the Saturday,

then on to Glasgow the Sunday morning, then back to Preston from Fauldhouse but it was still shattering. I think I've discovered the value of sweet black coffee!

I must note here that feedback from that afternoon seems favourable. I'll very probably be back.



KLINGON GUIDE TO STARFLEET

translated from the Klingon by John James Stevens

INTRO - This is a guide to help Klingons thinking of joining Starfleet. Some of you out there think Humans can't be trusted any further than they can be thrown. This is a subject of much debate. I find on average that Humans can be thrown about 7 metres - although this is not a reliable test for trusting Humans, as they tend to become upset if you start hurling them around.

HUMANS - They co-operate and trust each other. This may be very hard to get used to at first. They also express a never-ending stream of feelings towards each other and this can be very unsettling if you are not expecting it. You must resist the temptation to vomit in disgust; instead, stuff large amounts of hair (yours or someone else's) into your ears so it is easier to ignore.

FOOD - Human food is frequently cooked, and considering the taste it's not surprising. Humans tend to frown upon eating things that are still moving, and you will be disappointed if you order things like toad in the hole, hot dogs or Welsh rabbit. If you come across an animal on the ship it's probably a pet or a mascot and should not be mistaken for a running buffet. It's best to fast when visiting.

STRESS - Their ideas on recreation should be avoided as they invariably lead to more stress. They do play a form of poker, similar to a well-known Klingon game, but their version does not involve the losers having their teeth extracted. Suggesting this version even with adequate medical facilities nearby will always be met with some resistance.

BUREAUCRACY - We all know the Argains fill out the most forms in the Universe, because they have 5 arms. It's surprising, then, that Humans come a very close second as the most prolific form fillers.

PROMOTION - A very complex situation for Humans. The officers hold meetings, steal the best ideas and then claim they thought of it first, thus ensuring that they remain in power. Progress is very slow and assassination *reduces* your rank and increases the number of forms you have to fill in.

ADMIRALS - Are usually power mad, devious, egocentric opportunists, and about as pleasant as a swarm of Argain leeches... so there is no difference there.

MEDICAL - Starfleet facilities can be a bewildering place for a Klingon. Rather than just give you a plaster they will actually surgically re-attach your limb. The only drawback is the irritating fussing by the doctors and nurses.

ADVANTAGES - The chance to meet new and possible hostile life forms...

DISADVANTAGES - A friendly working environment, bland food, drab uniforms, bright lighting, clean air and phasers set on stun.



SEX AND THE OUTCAST

by Ann Peters

I know I'm in the minority here, but I thought *The Outcast* was a dreadful episode. Everyone keeps saying what a brilliant allegory for homosexuality it presents, but as far as I can see, there is a fundamental contradiction in using an androgynous race to explore sexual preference.

We Humans have two distinct sexes, each with a different biological function, and different physical features to enable us to carry out that function, and we each have the choice (albeit subconscious) as to whether we are attracted to people with the same anatomy as ourselves or to those with the alternative anatomy. But the J'naii are all what we would call male, since they inseminate husks. Do the 'female' J'naii feel some urge to pretend they are husks? It's no good saying the females were the ones who were gentle or who wanted to paint their faces, etc, because attributes like this have nothing whatsoever to do with their gender. Some men are very gentle and some men choose to paint their faces, but that doesn't make them female.

A male is a male because his sex organs produce vast quantities of small, mobile sex cells (sperm or pollen) and females are the ones who produce relatively few sex cells which are large, nutrient-rich and stationary (eggs or ova). This is what male and female means. Gender is defined by the type of sex cells produced, and it applies to Humans, to elephants, to birds, to spiders, to fir trees... In short, to all sexually reproducing species on Earth. If an individual is hermaphrodite, then either it produces male and female sex cells at different stages of its life, thereby changing its sex, or it produces them at the same time and mates in a reciprocal fashion, both giving and receiving sperm or pollen. Using Earth sex as a basis, the J'naii are all males because they produce mobile sex cells, and the only females on the scene are the husks.

OK, so the J'naii are not an Earth species

and maybe sex means something rather different to them, but if that is so, then we need to be told exactly what it does mean to them. We need to be told quite clearly what 'male' and 'female' means to the J'naii and we need to be told how this ties in with their reproductive process. The difference really must be defined in terms of reproduction and not some personality trait or mode of dress, otherwise the words 'male' and 'female' are quite inappropriate.

But we are not told any of this!

Perhaps the writers were afraid to dwell on sex too much, or perhaps they just didn't think the whole thing through. Maybe the writers themselves don't actually know what the difference between male and female is, and fondly imagine that anyone wearing a skirt must be a female! Whatever the reason, the fact remains that *The Outcast* failed to establish a convincing biological premise for the storyline, and without it, the whole episode is a complete nonsense.

Soren's courtroom speech was quite simply that of a gay person in today's society, and in the context of the J'naii it was rubbish. "What we do is no different from what you do", she says. Of course it is no different; the whole point of the J'naii is that they are all the same! There are bound to be differences between individuals, but how can two 'deviant' J'naii do anything that two 'normal' J'naii couldn't do if they had a mind to? Soren's words would sound fine coming from a Human lesbian, but in the storyline in which they are set, they make no sense at all.

And just what was it that Soren was so ashamed of having done before she was cured? Could she, perhaps, have been referring to her activities with Riker? If so, this is entirely unfair. Sex with Riker would be inter-species sex which touches on a completely different set of taboos and is irrelevant to the homosexual-heterosexual debate. And if she was referring to activities

between herself and 'male' J'naii, then we're back to the problem of credibility; unless we are told exactly what they are supposed to get up to that is so very different from what normal J'naii could do, it really doesn't make any sense.

The difficulties involved in trying to devise sexual preference in an androgynous race are so obvious, I'm surprised the Trek writers even attempted it. Surely if they wanted to explore homophobia, it could have been done in a much more credible way.

What if the J'naii had been bisexual instead of androgynous? With two distinct sexes, sexual preference is implicit, and does

not need to be contrived and explained as it does with a single-sex species. The 'norm' could have been a system of same sex for pleasure, different sex for procreation, or it could have been equal attraction to both sexes (sexual equality taken to its logical conclusion?). The deviants in either case would be those born with a revulsion to intimacy with members of their own sex. It might have upset Middle America to see bisexuality presented as the norm but it would have avoided the paradox of sexual 'preference' where there is only one sex to 'choose' from. And with a believable biological basis, The Outcast might have been a truly great episode.



EXCERPTS FROM A KLINGON PUBLICATION

by John Stevens

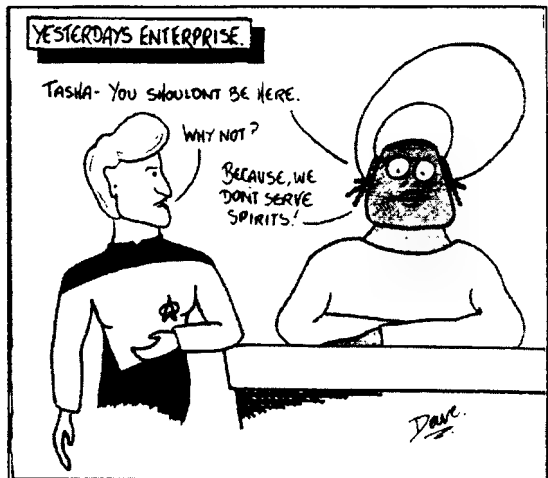
Pets Corner - Follow these four easy steps for a healthier, happier relationship with your pet targ.

- Remember to beat it daily.
- Targs, especially on a vessel, can become overweight, so once a week let it savage an ensign. It's good exercise for both of them.
- Clean up any Targ waste, as it contains disgusting parasites which if left alive can crawl off and join the Federation.
- Always wear your heavy duty gloves when feeding your pet. Targs are very partial to fingers... knuckles, hands, wrists, and so on.

New from Targ's Eye - Frozen Serpent Worms! Put into hibernation at just the right time to capture all those lovely juices! Eat them frozen for a quick refreshing crunchy snack or let them thaw and chase them around the plate. Serpent Worms, the fun snack you can eat between meals without ruining your appetite!

Are you a struggling planet on the verge of space flight? Then you could benefit by joining the

Klingon Empire. We can offer you protection and assistance, particularly in the area of extracting your planet's minerals in an efficient manner. Join now and receive an Love The Empire mug. One of our friendly representatives will be in your area soon to discuss your surr... problems. There is no obligation to join. Incidentally, our vessels will be conducting weapons tests in your area soon, so be on the look-out for stray torpedoes...



ASTROGATING THE NEXT GENERATION

Season One

by Judith A Hopkinson

O.K., let's get one thing straight right at the start - *the only planets that we know are definitely there are in our own solar system!* This doesn't mean there are no other planets, just that our telescopes are not yet powerful enough to see any other planets that may be there. Therefore, all the planets we see in Star Trek are fictitious. (Yes, I know we are beginning to learn of other ways of detecting planets, but I thought that was getting a bit technical for here.)

Briefly, stars are bodies which generate energy and planets are bodies that orbit a star and shine only by the light it reflects. The Sun is the star around which our planet, Earth orbits.

We can, however, look at whether some of these planet names might be based on fact. Many of the brightest stars have proper names. Others are given the name of the constellation in which they can be found, preceded by a letter of the Greek alphabet. This is known as the Bayer system, in which *α* (alpha) is the brightest star in the constellation, and *β* (beta) the next brightest and so on.

I have found that in Star Trek some of the planet names used are, in fact, star names followed by a number, eg Deneb II, Deneb IV and Deneb V. This would suggest the star Deneb has at least 5 planets in orbit around it. Deneb II would be the second planet from the star, Deneb IV would be the fourth planet from the star, and so on. Using this system Earth may be called Sol III, as we are the third planet from the Sun - the other two being Mercury and Venus.

So, to start at the beginning. I hope most of you have caught on to the fact that for the first two seasons of The Next Generation the main title sequence features a departure angle from our own solar system. The planets/stars seen are Earth, Sun, Moon, Jupiter and Saturn.

From the third season on, the main title sequence changed to an incoming journey. Beginning in deep space we see a comet enter the Milky Way Galaxy. The Enterprise follows, journeying past Neptune and Saturn.

UTOPIA PLANITIA

(The USS Enterprise D was built at the Utopia Planitia Fleet Yards. These are Starfleet shipyards which exist both in orbit and on the surface of Mars.)

Utopia Planitia is a smooth plain located on Mars. It was chosen as the landing site of the Viking 2 Lander in 1976. The Russian Mars '94 space probe is scheduled to be sent to the surface of Mars, and on board will be a CD-ROM collection of art and literature. A copy of the dedication plaque of the Enterprise-D, which states that the ship was built in the Utopia Planitia Fleet Yards, was included in this collection.

Out of all the planets mentioned during the first season, I found only seven which have a positive factual base. These I have listed below. Star Trek information is given first in brackets and this is followed by actual fact.

DENEb IV - (Encounter at Farpoint. A class M planet inhabited by the Bandii people and site of Farpoint Station.)

Alpha Cygni - Deneb - is the brightest star in the constellation Cygnus. It is a remote white supergiant, 1,800 light years away, ie 500 parsecs. This is quite a distance from Earth, so as a site for 'Farpoint' station it would be quite apt.

ALTAIR III - (Encounter at Farpoint. Mentioned as the planet which Riker refused to allow Captain De Soto transport to the surface of.)

Alpha Aquila - Altair - is the brightest

star in the constellation Aquila. At only 16 light years away, ie 5 parsecs from Earth, it is one of the closest stars to us.

TRIANGULUM - (Where No One Has Gone Before. Mentioned in passing by Geordi.)

Triangulum is a small constellation in the northern hemisphere near Perseus.

GALAXY M33 - (Where No One Has Gone Before. The Enterprise was hurled 2,700,000 light years from Earth by Kosinski and The Traveller.)

NGC 598, Triangulum Spiral - Galaxy 33 - is a spiral galaxy in the constellation Triangulum, sometimes nicknamed the Pinwheel Galaxy, and is about 720 kpc distant. The other two galaxies in the local group are the Andromeda Galaxy and our own Milky Way Galaxy.

PLEIADES CLUSTER - (Home Soil. The Enterprise conducted a mapping mission here. It is the area in which the planet Valera III is situated. Valera III was the site of a failed terraforming project.)

M45, NGC 1432, The Seven Sisters - Pleiades Cluster. This is a young open cluster of stars in the constellation Taurus. They are intensely hot and swathed in the remnants of the interstellar gas from which they were born. It contains many stars, but only 6 are visible to the naked eye; Alcyone, Maia, Atlas, Electra, Merope and Taygeta. It lies 415 ly away, ie 150 parsecs. Unlike the Star Trek fiction, there is no star or planet named Valera in this cluster.

VULCAN - (Coming of Age. The first Vulcan in a speaking role on TNG was seen in this episode. Vulcans have of course been seen throughout Star Trek.)

Vulcan. During the 19th century this was thought to be a planet which orbited our sun within the orbit of Mercury. It is now known not to exist. I wonder how many of you knew there was some 'real' basis for this one?!

TAU CETI III - (Conspiracy. Mentioned as

the planet where Picard and Captain Rixx once met.)

Tau Ceti is the 17th nearest star, not unlike our Sun, and lies 11.7 ly. away in the constellation Cetus. It was selected with Epsilon Eridani, for the initial SETI search as a possible centre of a planetary system.

There are two more planets which, although at first sight they do not seem to have a real name, can be puzzled out and perhaps have a question mark put against them.

TAU ALPHA C - (Where No One Has Gone Before. The homeworld of The Traveller.)

Tau is the abbreviation for the constellation Taurus. Alpha is the brightest star of a constellation. Aldebaran is the brightest star in Taurus. Therefore Tau Alpha C may suggest the 3rd planet orbiting the star Aldebaran.

The problem with this is Aldebaran III was a planet featured in TOS. Also, Aldebaran is only 68 light years away, which doesn't seem far considering The Traveller stated that Tau Alpha C is a very distant planet. I therefore assume that Tau Alpha C is not Aldebaran after all.

GAMMA TAURI IV - (The Last Outpost. The location of an unmanned Federation post.)

Gamma is usually the third brightest star of a constellation. Tauri is the genitive form of the Taurus Constellation. Therefore Gamma Tauri IV may be the fourth planet orbiting the third brightest star in the constellation of Taurus.

Well, that is all I could find. As for all the other planets mentioned in the first season and not included here, I have been unable to find any factual connection and can only think that these locations have been classified as Top Secret!

*Sources - Star Trek Encyclopedia by Michael and Denise Okuda
Collins Dictionary of Astronomy
Guide to Stars and Planets by Patrick Moore*

BUT IF YOU'RE A TREKKIE WHERE'S YOUR ANORAK?

Jay Stevensen

Admit that you like Trek and you know you've been labelled. You're a weirdo. You're a crank. You believe men with pointed ears and golden skinned androids exist for real. You're currently planning to do evil things to Malcom McDowell because he "killed Kirk".

"Get a life!" Bill Shatner yelled, reminding us that it was "only a TV show." Actually, we know that. But TV shows have their uses. The survival of Trek has given both of its lead actors larger opportunities than they might have otherwise enjoyed. Leonard Nimoy has admitted this in various interviews over the years. Mr Shatner's two books of Memories are probably an acknowledgement of the same debt. And did he pull the name "Tek" out of a hat? Astute business man that he obviously is, he knows which side of his bread is covered with low cholesterol margarine.

Fans helped Trek secure its present position in media culture, and if this has also helped the careers (and the bank balances) of any of the actors then that's a bonus for everyone. They've given us a lot of pleasure, and still do. They deserve to get something back, even if being part of the legend may have seemed a mixed blessing at times.

There's another plus side of the Trek phenomenon to consider: the merchandising. In "The Making of Star Trek Deep Space Nine" the authors point out that "when dozens of other merchandising licenses (are) added (to the profits made by the syndicated series and the films) Trek is perhaps the most successful entertainment franchise of all time, science fiction or not."

I know there have been some less than happy aspects of this particular subject concerning the unauthorised use of actor's images, but looking at the spin-offs in a very broad sense making all this stuff has kept a lot of people employed, and from the look of things it'll go on doing so for many years to come. That's nice at any time, and especially in our recession hit era.

"Generations" has encouraged a spate of Trek related articles, not all of them polite and kind, but where are all the "sad, sad, anoraks" they keep on about? At least two different magazines picked on the Nit Pickers Guide as an example of fan's limited outlook, depicting us as sitting goggle-eyed in front of the TV, with our book and our videos and our finger on the freeze frame button. Have these people never heard of a sense of humour? The Nit Pickers Guide is *funny*, ladies and gentlemen....and yes, it was meant to be.

There may be fans whose lives are obsessively centred on Trek. Fans who wear pointed ears to work or change their names by deed poll to James Tiberius Kirk. How many of them do you know?

Trek for most of us is a hobby, no better, worse or sillier than any other. Some people like sticking small squares of perforated paper in albums. Some like knocking coloured balls about with long sticks. Some (like a young man I know) chase around the country (and the world) watching the England football team lose matches. Some even like Morris Dancing.

Trek fandom can give you a social life (meetings, cruises, Cons, Pages Bar); waken hitherto unsuspected creativity (writing, poetry, drawing, costume making, Sew-a-Tribble); give you some outright fun (donning a Klingon forehead or Vulcan ears or anything else you fancy....no, not at work); teach you a new language (how long before Klingon meets GCSE?); let you indulge in a bit of serious or fantasy discussion (via the IDIC letter pages). Trek has encouraged people towards a career in science or medicine or just encouraged them generally by offering a vision of optimism for the future. AND FANDOM HAS RAISED LOTS AND LOTS OF MONEY FOR CHARITY. Yes, it deserves to be in capitals.

I agree with Dave Styles, let the non-Trek public think what it likes and let snide

journalists libel the innocent anorak. What have anoraks done to deserve all this contempt, anyway? They may not be snappy but they're useful. Who was described by the San Francisco Examiner in 1986 as "looking very 20th century in a tan parka (anorak to us limeys) blue jeans and black Reeboks."? Mr L Nimoy, no less, directing ST:IV.

So wear your You-Know-Whats with pride, Trekkers! You're in very good company!



WHERE DOES INTOLERANCE STOP?

by Gratiennne Vandekerckhove

Am I naive in believing that part of what makes Star Trek great is the ability to reach out beyond our cultural/social/political conditioning and touch the other and being touched in return. Does it really matter if this or that person prefers CT, TNG or DS9?

Diversity is part of our lives. How about the Star Trek diversity? Isn't that part of our lives too? A diversity to relate to, to rejoice in, to love, something to cherish. How much richer are we because of that diversity, because of any diversity?

Classic Trek is my first love but that doesn't imply a rejection of TNG, DS9 or whatever new series will see the daylight. If I, a single person, am not able to accept without condition any other form of ST beside Classic Trek, how am I ever going to accept any other human being who resembles me in so many ways but is also so very, very different?

IDIC doesn't start with accepting an alien being from a distant planet, it starts closer to home, with ourselves.

Arrogant presumption?
Possibly. Idealistic? Definitely.
Fallible? Yes.



STARFLEET ACADEMY SELF TEST ENTRANCE EXAM

by John Stevens

(based on an idea by Ian Senior)

1 - A turbolift door opens to reveal a large green blob slithering in your direction. Do you...

- a) Run screaming in the other direction
- b) Draw your weapon and blast it through the bulkhead
- c) Check if it has rank pips

2 - A high-ranking Vulcan has been invited to a meeting. Which is the correct term to address him by...

- a) For God's sake cheer up!
- b) Live long and prosper
- c) Sure you're not a Romulan?

3 - At an Andorian festival you are invited to sample the food. Do you...

- a) Accept and then seek medical advice as soon as possible
- b) Take out your lunch pack
- c) Claim that you ate a particularly large lizard three days ago

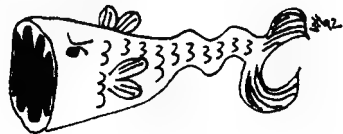
4 - You have only a few seconds to pick away team equipment. Select now...

- a) Inflatable Targ and a real phaser
- b) Tricorder and phaser
- c) Inflatable phaser and a real Targ

5 - You notice the Captain is behaving more eccentrically than usual. Do you...

- a) Openly challenge the Captain about having the crew flogged
- b) Conspire with the First Officer
- c) Tell her you like parrots and the wooden leg looks good on her

End test Your answers have been recorded and sent to Fleet Command. Please allow 24 weeks for our decision.



KEEPING A PERSPECTIVE or AGITATING THE ANORAKS?

personal observation by Jason Nemes

Isn't society strange? It's just struck me how readily identifiable some people have become. Wherever many gather, you can invariably place many people in their social group just by looking. What's more, most are gregarious - "birds of a feather", etc, and usually there's a uniform of sorts. From collar and ties to leather jackets and crash helmets, people often seem eager to parade their allegiance to a particular "tribe" or "sub-culture". And what alarmed me about the group of six I saw as a friend and I went to see *Generations*, was that all of them wore identical "two captains" T-shirts for the film I was about to see.

They left a sci-fi/comic shop together, and made for the same destination as my friend and me, eagerly tearing open little blue polythene packets and examining the contents. Then, as one, they all stopped dead in their tracks when one proudly exclaimed, "I've got Ensign Ro!" He then immediately became the subject of some curiously obvious emotions - mainly greed and envy, I thought, judging by his companions' reactions.

Later, as I reflected on the film's "evolution of the ST universe" message, I remembered the group I'd seen outside the cinema earlier, and wondered if they represented a newly-emerged "tribe" I'd not noticed before. Not that I'm some sort of "paperback sociologist", but aren't groups like bikers and punks and office workers and all the others, so obvious by their dress and behaviour?

I've watched science fiction for years, and Star Trek in particular, and enjoyed nearly every minute. I buy the videos, the Encyclopedia, and yes, I have bought the customizable game cards that I'd seen being bought earlier. And that's what helped me realise more than anything else.

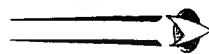
When I see a group of apparently rational people openly reduced to envy or greed simply by the hypothetical attributes of a character printed on a piece of cardboard, I

begin to wonder whether the enjoyment I've found in the Star Trek universe, and the measure of respect for the ideals that Gene Roddenberry created in it, could ever turn into an obsession.

Now, I know IDIC's credo is perhaps "respect, enjoyment and celebration of variety", but is the Star Trek merchandising machine so menacing and insidious that we are now no longer merely to enjoy the entertainment and respect the ideals, but that we have to display them in public, as a badge?

Time was, to admit to liking Star Trek would be met in a manner similar to that received when admitting to working in an office, or owning a motorcycle (I speak from experience, for I do both). These days, however, the tabloid media interest is perhaps more sinister. We have all seen the picture they paint of the wearing of costumes at conventions, for instance. I see a certain mocking in their portrayal - the reporters seem comfortable in presenting Star Trek fans as a very peculiar group of people indeed, with almost the same tone that they give to train spotters.

I'm just grateful that these realizations have dawned, and have shown me how far I have been drawn into "trekdom" - and how much my wallet has been emptied in the process!! I also see that a certain parallel has developed - that is, as ST:TMP (Star Trek: The Marketable Phenomena) rolls ever onward, inexorably reaching a wider customer base (sorry, I meant "audience") could the greater numbers of, shall we say more enthusiastic and visible fans among us be attracting the sort of media attention and establishing a public perception that the rest of us find embarrassing and distasteful?



REVIEWS - BOOKS/VIDEOS ETC.



- **VALHALLA** by Nathan Archer DS9 10 Pocket Books. Reviewed by Sheila Clark

A strange alien ship arrives through the wormhole, its crew of three crab-like beings dead. Examination indicates a technology unknown to the Federation. Pulled in to dock at DS9, the ship is claimed by the Cardassians (because its course would have taken it into Cardassian space), while Kira is adamant it belongs to Bajor.

Meanwhile a power struggle exists among the Cardassians as a result of the death of the heir designate to the position of leader of a group dedicated to the reoccupation of Bajor; and while Gul Ducat (one of the contenders) tries to capture the alien vessel, it seizes control of DS9...

Looking at the above paragraphs, anyone might say "This looks interesting". It wasn't. I couldn't summon up any interest in it at all. The book basically revolved around one theme, the motivation of the alien vessel, and everything else seemed only incidental; I felt nothing was developed as fully as it could have been. The potential for an interesting and exciting story was there, it just wasn't achieved. For me, it plodded along, no spark, not even a major change of pace.

For some reason the writer felt it necessary to state that the book takes place before the events in *Betrayal* by Lois Tilton, No. 6 in the DS9 series; frankly, I couldn't see why. 5/10

- **THE ROMULAN STRATAGEM** by Robert Greenberger Pocket Books TNG 35 £4.70. Reviewed by Sheila Clark

Eloh has recently been in the throes of a civil war. Peace is relatively new and still quite fragile, although both sides are now working together. The planet is in a buffer zone between the Klingon and Romulan Empires, and the government has asked representatives of both the Federation and the Romulans to visit them and tell them

what they could expect if they became allied with one or the other. The Enterprise is sent to represent the Federation; the Romulan ship is commanded by Sela - a position she sees as a demotion after her failure to capture Spock (see *Unification*); she is therefore determined to 'win' at all costs.

I found this book dragged a bit at first, as the crew of the Enterprise meets the Elohsians and is shown Elohsian technology, etc. This part of the book felt 'padded'; Mr Greenberger was setting the scene and building up the characters, etc, something it is always hard to do without sounding like a textbook. However, about halfway through there's an explosion, and from then on the story picked up and became quite interesting.

I did feel that the very minor subplot revolving around Ensign Ro was unnecessary; I couldn't make up my mind if it was in for light relief, in because the writer likes Ro and couldn't think how to include her in any other way, or in because the writer felt (or was told by his editor) that he had to include a romance of some sort. Whatever the reason, I didn't think it did anything to advance or develop the story at all.

So - I wouldn't call the story brilliant, but it's better than the first few chapters indicate. 7/10

- **THE ESCAPE** by Dean Wesley Smith & Kristine Kathryn Rusch Pocket Books Voy2 £4.70. Reviewed by Sheila Clark

When the Voyager needs spare parts for repairs, Neelix guides them to a massive graveyard of identical ships. The away team of Torres, Kim and Neelix enters one of the ships which promptly disappears - and returns minutes later with an alien humanoid on board. Meanwhile, the away team has found itself three hundred thousand years in the past - in a world where such a journey results in an automatic death sentence.

This story is *good*. It's good science fiction

well told. The story moves well - I certainly didn't want to put it down. In some ways it reminded me of Simak's Way Station (which I like) but the resemblances are fairly superficial. The writers' own characters are nicely drawn, while they have, perhaps wisely, not delved too deeply into the characters of the Voyager crew; they've stuck with the superficial characteristics that anyone who has seen (or even read) Caretaker will recognise and therefore feel that the characters are in character. I've a couple of minor quibbles with the regulations concerning time 'jumps' - nobody is allowed to jump from one time to another inside one time zone (set at an arbitrary five hundred thousand years) because of the danger of changing time - but nothing is said about someone jumping ten years from just inside one time zone to just inside another, neighbouring one; and the away team was taken by the timeship only three hundred thousand years in what appeared to be an automatic jump. Surely the automatic controls should have been set to the 'legal' minimum? A perfect case of a story depending for its development on a basic 'hole' in the plot. However, I enjoyed it so much that I willingly suspended disbelief on the matter. 9.5/10.

• **FOREIGN FOES** by Dave Galanter & Greg Brodeur Pocket Books TNG31 £4.50
Reviewed by Nanaki Kaur

Captain Picard and the crew of the Enterprise have been asked to do the near impossible, mediate a treaty between the Klingons and Hidran, who have been at each other's throats for 70 years. Things do not go as planned and the death of one of the ambassadors threatens to turn the negotiations into full-scale war!

There are three main stories in this novel: Picard with the delegates; Riker and Troi's adventure underneath the planet's surface; and Data goes berserk, commandeering the Enterprise and attacking a Klingon vessel!

The best part about this book is that all the characters have a part to play, not like most NG novels. The characterisation is spot on, too, right down to Riker's fling with the

local scientist. The story is well written and the plot kept me turning the pages. Definitely a good read. 8/10.

• **DS9 CELEBRITY SQUARES 1 - Blood and Honour** Malibu Media
Comment by Alan Stephen

This is to be illustrated and co-scripted by Ken Penders and it is written by Mark Lenard, who played Sarek in the original series, films and Next Gen. Mark Lenard first appeared in Star Trek as a Romulan commander, one of the first of the race ever seen. This story introduces the son of the commander, Jannek, who visits DS9 on an ambassadorial mission to Bajor. A mysterious murder then sparks off a tale of honour, treachery and vengeance.

• **Spock, Messiah** by Theodore R. Cogswell and Charles A Spano, Jr; Bantam Books.
Reviewed by Clare Finkel

If you are looking for a Spock story, forget it. It's true, the story centralizes around his demonic pursuits, but our Vulcan friend is hardly in it, and the few times that he is, are all very disappointing.

The story starts with a planet survey of a precontact and boring people, and great concern over General Order One. However, to my judgement, but obviously not to the authors', the method used to make the study reeks against the Prime Order. Each member of the survey team, Spock included, has a telepathic device surgically implanted into his brain, so he can invade and use the mind of a member of the indigenous population. Thrown in is a Spock-loving female, who deliberately.. oops..

If it were a short story, it might have been better. As it was, it dragged on and on right on up to its disappointing end.

• **STAR TREK MOVIE MEMORIES**
William Shatner/Chris Kreski Harper Collins 1994 £9.99.
Reviewed by Jay Stevensen

The mixture, but not quite as before. Presented in Bill's usual breezy style - and

still with the nice picture captions - this volume (as Adrienne Brown comments in N/L 38 p 82) deals more with the off screen politics of film making than with "fan" type gossip.

I'm sure there were good times but reading between the lines here it all sounds a little less fun than making the TV series. Amusing memos and practical jokes with bicycles are obviously things of the past. There are a couple of nice Sulu stories but the only other member of the original cast who features prominently is Leonard Nimoy (at times this reads like Bill and Leonard versus Almost Everyone Else).

You'll get a different edge on some familiar stories, a few new ones, some nice photos and plenty of long (and often quite outspoken) quotes from Leonard Nimoy, Harve Bennett and Nick Meyer in particular. I was also delighted to learn that I'm not alone in thinking *The Wrath of Khan* is a terrible title.

Well worth a tenner, though. Treat yourself.

• **BEYOND UHURA**, Star Trek and Other Memories Nichelle Nichols Putnam 1995 £16.25 Hardback, 320 pages
Reviewed by Edward Woo

This is the next autobiography to come from the ST stable. Again it is Nichelle's other career and life I wanted to read about. She described her early years, family life and her gift for singing and dancing. Her entertainment career continued despite an early marriage and a son (Kyle). She had the courage to work in difficult clubs and gave evidence in court against a leading citizen.

Nichelle even had to collect her own fan mail during the TV series. She loved and hated Bill and Gene. Gene gave colour to the bridge with a negro actress but later denied her a chance to get a regular role in *Mannix*. Bill was a greater director, but was upset by his memoirs.

She loved her work for NASA and its recruitment drive but her lowest point came

with the Challenger accident.

Notable trivia included repeated tales of the wormhole effect in TMP to Kirstie Alley's very professional performance despite tragic family circumstances.

I enjoyed the book and hope a paperback version comes out for those who can't afford the HB. Unfortunately I could not attend an autograph signing by her in *Forbidden Planet* in Liverpool.

• **FEDERATION** Judith and Garfield Reeves-Stevens Pocket Books (hard back) 1994 £9.99. Reviewed by Jay Stevens

I agree with Sheila (N/L 37, p82), this story of Zephram Cochrane being chased through time first for his scientific knowledge and then for revenge has too much techno-babble and is a bit too jumpy, although pursuing a story through different time lines can be an awkward plotline to juggle.

There are some nice touches: the authors list "people without whom the Federation would not exist" as "Black, Cochrane and Coon" and seem to (how did they know?) almost give Spock Kirk's final words from *Generations*, but although this is good (and well written) sci-fi it is basically a dark story that lacks the humour and fun that I find attractive in the best (Classic) Trek.

To read or to not to read? I'd say give it a go. Although perhaps from the library first so that you can decide whether or not to invest £9.99 for your own copy.

• **THE MAKING OF STAR TREK DEEP SPACE NINE** Judith & Garfield Reeves-Stevens Illustrated with 16 pages in colour plus b/w photographs/sketches Pocket Books large format p/b 1994 #12.99
Reviewed by Jay Stevens

After a year of going where no writers have gone before Judith and Garfield Reeves-Stevens have come up with one of the best (non-fiction) Trek books ever. It's subtitled "An in-depth look behind the scenes of the smash hit television series" and that's exactly

what it is.

Over 300 pages crammed with information on all aspects of DS9. Whatever you wanted to know about the making of the series it's probably here, complete with design sketches and photos. There are some interviews with the actors, but the actual hands-on production and scripting gets the main emphasis and if you're keen to try to pitch a script the chapter on How to Write for DS9 is a mini writer's workshop.

There's a nice non-political history of Trek and some of the trivia is surprising. About 17 million viewers watched the first-run episodes of the Next Generation and about the same number watched the Original series in the late sixties. Then "that size audience was a reason for cancellation, but in the nineties it's a rating triumph." Fascinating?

An essential addition to any good Trek library. Rush out and buy!

• **GENE RODDENBERRY'S LOST UNIVERSE** Tekno Comix
Reviewed by Alan Stephen

This is one universe that should have stayed lost. Truly awful - no redeeming features. Tekno publishes a line of concept comix, in other words the creator's name that appears on the title has little or no involvement with the comix. The only title worth reading so far is Neil Gaiman's Mr Hero, a comic about a Victorian steam-driven robot.

Teckno also publishes Leonard Nimoy's Primortals, another waste of paper - so if you're attracted to comix with Gene or Leonard's name on them, don't bother with these.

• **STAR TREK DEEP SPACE NINE - TEROK NOR** Malibu Comics
Reviewed by Alan Stephen

If you want some background to the construction of DS9, this may be the comic for you. Mark Altman has written a story about Charna Sar, a Bajoran freedom fighter,

who is enlisted by a Cardassian, Kotek Darek, to help in the design of Terok Nor - or, as we know it, DS9. She either helps in the construction or the Cardassians will destroy the Bajoran Barodeem, the archive of Bajoran culture. Regrettably, he is let down by some uneven art.

• **STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE - At the Edge of the Final Frontier**
Graphic novel. Mike W Barr/Gordon Purcell/Terry Pallot Boxtree 1993 £7.99
Reviewed by Jay Stevensen

Actually a picture strip (but we won't reopen that discussion) containing two stories: Stowaway and Old Wounds.

Stowaway (in two parts) has a fairly pedestrian will-they-won't-they-be-saved-from-the-creeping-mold plot. We know they will. Old Wounds, in which the now elderly "Butcher of Bajor" Cardassian General Gul Trelar returns to his former command Deep Space Nine (with his family and Bajoran second wife, a one-time fellow freedom fighter and friend of Kira Nerys) is a much better story, combining character exploration with a murder mystery

The graphics are OK but not over exciting and £7.99 is a high price to pay for a book that can be read in about half an hour.

Strictly for DS9 addicts.

• **LEONARD NIMOY'S PRIMORTALS**
Tekno Comix March 1995 £1.50
Reviewed by Jay Stevensen

It's doubtful if Mr Nimoy had much to do with this although he presumably approved it. In a short interview (which - surprise! - lets him talk briefly about science rather than Trek) Leonard gives Isaac Asimov credit for the concept of the Primortals.

Originally intended as a short story idea for a sci-fi anthology that somehow "never happened" it would have probably worked better in this format. Here the crudely coloured graphics make the humanised animals look clumsy and the script (by Kate Worley) is typical kid's stuff.

Tekno claim to offer stories that "make your pulse pound and your palms sweat".

I don't think this one will.

• **STAR TREK: GENERATIONS COMIC BOOK ADAPTATION** DC Comics

Reviewed by Alan Stephen

While we wait for the laserdisc and videotape release of the seventh Star Trek movie we have this comic book adaptation and as adaptations go it's very good. It has the scenes removed from the cinema release, the artwork by Gordon Purcell, Jerome Moore and Terry Pallot is excellent and the adaptation by Michael Jan Friedman is handled very well. Indeed, my only real complaint is the cover by Sonia Hillios, an artist I've raved about before. While there is nothing wrong with it, it just has nothing to do with the film.

• **STAR TREK - TESTS OF COURAGE** (Graphic novel) Howard Weinstein Pub. Titan Books, 1994 £9.99 (Originally published in single magazine form by DC Comics 1992) Reviewed by Jay Stevensen

The warring Tabukans have finally decided to mutually detonate their stockpile of weapons, but the ships carrying them are hi-jacked by the Romulan-aided Maroans. This fairly standard storyline is made more interesting than it sounds by a strong script which combines intelligent dialogue, good all round characterisation, and a nice Trek flavour.

Most of the original Enterprise crew get a piece of the action, and Sulu's fans will enjoy seeing how he handles his first command (with Rand as his first officer).

At first I wasn't sure about the graphics but in the end I found myself forgiving the doors for saying FWISSH, the Romulan harp for emitting pink notes and Kirk looking nothing like Bill Shatner. Didn't care much for the colour (lurid green and yellow Maroan baddies, pink explosions) but then these were comic books before they became a Graphic Novel and there's a nice cover for Sulu fans.

If you're into collecting the picture stories this one should definitely be added to your list.

• **INFINITY WELCOMES CAREFUL DRIVERS and BETTER THAN LIFE** by Grant Naylor. Audio cassettes. Both produced by Laughing Stock and read by Chris Barrie. Abridged versions £7.99. Unabridged (INFINITY only at time of writing) £19.99. Reviewed by Jay Stevensen.

All right, so they're not Trek, but we're an open minded non-sectarian crowd, aren't we? If you are a Red Dwarf fan and you haven't heard these audio versions you're missing a rare treat. Beg borrow or buy them. But listen! The marvellous Chris Barrie does all the voices. He's incredible. What a guy!

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Across 1. Anya; 3. Darmock; 4. Lincoln; 7. Garth; 8. T'Pol; 11. Stratagema; 13. Lore; 17. Gerald Fried; 18. Katra; 19. Jimmy Doohan; 20. Sam; 21. Kurn; 24. Abraham; 25. Cartwright; 27. Feinberger; 28. Stonn.

Down 1. August; 2. Yar; 5. Ilia; 6. Odo; 8. The High Ground; 9. Nerys; 10. Morse Code; 12. Robert; 14. Jeffries Tube; 15. Dilithium; 16. Sarjenka; 19. Julian; 22. Fajo; 23. Bashir; 26. Gorn.

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ZINE REVIEWS

• ENTERPRISE-LOG ENTRIES 92

Reviewed by Jean Sloan

For Alex Blakeney: if you're barmy, you're in good company!

This edition of E-Log Entries is full of goodies - real value for money. The first story, *Lost and Found* by Alex Blakeney, is excellent - a tense, vivid account of what happens when Kirk is accused of selling secrets to the Romulans to buy his life and freedom. The Kirk we meet at the beginning of the story has been tortured, humiliated and apparently broken by the Romulans who have returned him in disgrace to the Federation. The plot is complex, the story well written and the reactions of the characters realistic. This will join the list of my favourites, and I look forward to reading Alex's next story.

In *Ailis* by Pen Cramphorn, Spock and McCoy beam down to investigate a planet which appears to be the source of a distress call. They are marooned on the planet when the Enterprise suffers a ship-wide systems failure. McCoy and Spock become ill and McCoy dies... Another well-written story which kept me guessing.

I have learned to look forwards to Alan Boag's work. His short piece *The Tales of Montgomery Scott No 1: Scott's Law* will I hope lead to *Tale 2!* Alan has also contributed some amusing limericks, which add to the variety of poetry in the zine.

Sheila Clark's *There Will Be Dancing...* is very funny, concerning an inspection, the traditional way of wearing the kilt, and Highland dancing... Doesn't that get your imagination working??

In *The Chloros Crisis* the Enterprise is called to tackle a mystery virus on Chloros IV. At this point it might be worth referring to Sheila Clark's comment in N/L 39, P84, re basic plots. Fiona Fletcher's story is an

excellent example of a basic plot being given a fresh treatment. I loved this story; the quality of Fiona's writing, the skill with which she weaves her story lines together, hold the attention of the reader: but what made it special for me was the sheer delight of her characterisation - the repartee between the principals is just right.

• ENTERPRISE INCIDENTS 12: The

Legacy by Rosemary Heaton

Reviewed by Jean Sloan

This is a full-length story set in the aftermath of Gary Mitchell's death. There is an Epilogue which gives clues to the story's resolution - I didn't realise its significance until halfway through; the story proper starts with an accident apparently caused by Spock's carelessness. A series of further errors shakes Kirk's faith in his First Officer, and seems to be destroying the relationship between the two officers, turning their developing friendship to suspicion and animosity. I have to say that a this point in the story I wanted to shake Kirk for doubting Spock, but of course Kirk does not know his Vulcan so very well at this point in the canon.

I will not reveal the plot any further; I didn't guess what was going on for some time, which is a credit to the way that Rosemary has worked the narrative. In the end, of course, everything works out, and Rosemary provides a rationale for the first mental link between Kirk and Spock - a subject of recent discussion in the Postbag.

• SWAP by Jane Seaton

Reviewed by Ruth Borgars

I was lucky enough to read this story in draft recently. This means I cannot comment on the finished look of the zine, although the author tells me she is very pleased with the illustrations, which are by established artist Teegar. The story, however, I have no hesitation in saying, is excellent. The central

character is Ensign Pavel Chekov, but don't let that put off any who are not especial fans of his. This is an absorbing and thought-provoking story, which incidentally puts some more flesh on the bones of a character who (like many of the supporting cast of Classic Trek) was rather short-changed on screen.

Intended as an 'antidote' to romanticised fan fiction which has the hero sweeping all (including the heroine) before him, this story strands Chekov on a planet where he has been convicted of causing the death of one of the local overlord's warriors. The sentence? To take the place (and the name) of the dead man, including living with his cuckolding wife, new-born son and duties as military company commander where the Klingons seem about to become 'advisers' to the garrison. As well as a convincing account of

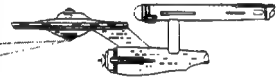
how the Ensign struggles to retain some dignity and sense of personal identity in the face of all this, including the possibility that his shipmates believe him dead, Swap tries to look at the Federation/Klingon conflict from the point of view of a population to whom the Prime Directive of non-interference appears to be simply a Federation plot to keep valuable information out of the hands of people who might benefit from it; the Klingons, on the other hand, seem only too willing...

Very well written, and recommended. Look out for more of Jane's work. It's only a pity this has to be published in the States, thus pushing up the price to us. Hope the Yanks appreciate it!

Swap, published by Bill Hupe. See zine ads.



NEW ZINES



See zine ads for ordering details.

• ScoTpress

Make It So 24 - Did you ever think to see the day when Picard would be perfectly happy having a Q on board? Who is trying to kill Riker? A conversation between Riker and Guinan.

• New Zines from Bill Hupe

Of Mixed Blood by Elizabeth Pehrson continues Pehrson's T'Beth universe from More Missions More Myths. The storyline focuses on Spock and his child. **Swap** by Jane Seaton - a mission to negotiate with the Duke of Eaye goes terribly wrong, leaving Ensign Chekov to make a terrible decision... **Charisma 19** (K/S) - a sequel to Generations in which Kirk doesn't die; a Vulcan in a brothel? and more. **We're Sleeping Where?** by Lynn Lorton, a Picard/Crusher romance. Life on the Enterprise will never be the same after Beverly Crusher informs Jean Luc that they are expecting... **Data Entries 26**, full of tidbits on Brent/Data fiction. **Quin'lat**, The

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CHOSEN BROTHER by Gloria Fry;
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LOVELY - A LITTLE PROBLEM by Brenda Kelsey; ORCADIA by Joyce Devlin; ENTERPRISE-LOG ENTRIES 82, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89; IDIC LOG 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15. STAR TREK CREDITS - a listing of the Classic Trek credits by Janet Quarton £1.50; A CITY WITHOUT WALLS by Alinda Alain £2; GZAZARA by Alinda Alain £2; ESSAYS OF AQUARIUS by Marion van der Voort £3.00. This one is not Star Trek but there are many similarities
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Send submissions of TNG & DS9 material to Sheila Clark, (address above) and Classic Trek material to Valerie Piacentini, 20 Ardrossan Rd, Saltcoats, Ayrshire, Scotland.

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illustrated by Teegar. Continues Pehrson's T'Beth universe from More Missions, More Myths with 7 brand new stories! 200 pages, \$20. **SWAP** by Jane Seaton, illustrated by Teegar. A mission to negotiate with the Duke of Eaye goes terribly wrong, leaving Ensign Chekov to make a terrible decision... 200 pages, colour cover, perfect bound. \$13.50. **CHARISMA 19** - Almost Legends, a sequel to Generations in which Kirk doesn't die; Stay the Night - a Vulcan in a brothel? and more. K/S, 160 pages, \$21. **WE'RE SLEEPING WHERE?** by Lynn Lorton, a Picard/Crusher romance, 100 pages, colour cover, perfect bound; 100 pages, \$12. **DATA ENTRIES 26**. Data Entries is filled with tidbits on Brent/fiction about Data. \$2, 6 oz.

QUINLOT: The Story of the Promise. An all-Klingon novel of high adventure. 100 pages, \$9. **DEEP SPACES** edited by Kimberly Junius, all X-rated material, both straight and slash. 100 pages, perfect bound, colour cover by Adrian Flores, \$11. **FOR THERE IS MUCH TO DARE** - the first DS9 zine and novel, by Susan Crites. An Odo story! Age statement required; 100 pages, \$8.

Many other zines available. We are authorised to reprint the following zines; out of print Scotpress zines; Stardate Unknown 1 - 5; R & R: Archives; Showcase; Masiform D; Quartet + 2; all T'Kuhtian Press titles (Warped Space, Obsc'zine) and many other classic out of print zines; many other titles available. SASE + 4 IRCs for a full list. We can accept personal cheques from the U.K. Please add 1.5% for bank charges. Bill Hupe & Peg Kennedy - Footrot Flats, 916 Lamb Rd, Mason, MI 48854-9554 USA. Our British agents are Lynne Buckley, 160 Fairway Rd, Shephed, Loughborough, Leics, LE12 9HG and Janet Ellicott (see below) - SAE to either for British prices.

Greycloud Services (4/95)

"Star Trek" and many other zines always available from Janet Ellicott, 43 Brooksbank House, Retreat Place, Morning Lane, Homerton, London E9 6RN. I agent for Bill Hupe and Peg Kennedy, Bjo Trimble and Bernice Russell, and publish my own zines as well as dealing in secondhand zines. Send me a large (at least A5) SAE for a copy of my list.

(4/95)

NEW ENTERPRISE - a new amateur magazine based on ST:TNG is available from the end of January 1995. UK £4, Europe £4.50, USA/Australia £5 (airmail), prices incl P&P. Because of the high cost of converting foreign cheques, etc, all cheques/POs should be in sterling and made payable to Miss A O'Neill; wherever possible cash should not be sent. Available from Miss Ann O'Neill, 38 Stephens Firs, Mortimer, Reading, Berkshire, England RG7 3UY. Contributions are always welcome, and contributors receive a free copy of New Enterprise. Any unused material will be returned.

ZINES by Kay Stagg (4/95)

Genzines - Kirk/Spock orientated hurt/comfort. Please make cheques or postal orders payable to Kay Stagg and send orders to 33 Barrack Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6RU. Postage and packing included in the price (second class). Please ask for price if ordering from Europe ... include an I.R.C.

NEW ZINE - LIFELINE; GATHERING STORMS; THE SPIRIT OF ENTERPRISE; THE SILENT CRY; A MAJOR CRISIS WITH THE URSUS MAJOR MINERS. 138 pages, U.K. £4.80 inc P & P.

LEGENDS - stories by Waltraud Zuch-Glass and Jennifer Cobbing. 93 pages, U.K. £4 inc P & P.

Still available: **SECOND CHANGE/A COLD BY ANY OTHER NAME** (Previously appeared in Stargate and Stargate II) 75 pages £3.50. **TROUBLES REVISITED/THE RIFT/ JUSTICE SHOULD BE SEEN TO BE DONE** (previously appeared in Stargate III and Enterprise Log Entries 61 (ScoTpress)) 95 pages, £3.75. **FREEDOM** - full length story 167 pages £5. **TOO MANY AVENUES** - full length story £5.25. **IN PERSPECTIVE** - full length story 177 pages £5.25.

For other items, ie pens, pencils, notebooks, bookmarks, etc, please send SAE for information. I have authorised Bill Hupe to reprint and sell these zines in America, Canada and APO/FPO outside Britain; send to him for prices, enclosing a SAE.

Merry Men Press (6/95)

Merry Men Press catalogue. This comprehensive catalogue contains complete information for all the publications from one

of fandom's longest running and more reliable publishers. Beautifully designed by Shelley Butler and Kathy Stanis it includes excerpts from every story and novel published by Merry Men Press, thus making it an invaluable reference guide. Reproductions of artwork from many of the fine covers done by fandom's best artists grace its pages. This is a must for every serious zine collector as well as an enjoyment for those just browsing. To get your copy please send 4 stamps (US) or \$3.00 US currency (foreign). The format will allow continuous additions of future flyers to make this a continuing catalogue. NB - all zines put out by Merry Men Press contain either K/S stories, art and poetry or other "/". Age statement required.

Currently in new release: **FIRST TIME 41; SCATTERED STARS 7**; due in July, **First Time 42**; *Within The Mirror 10* [Sheila - Robin, I hope I read your card correctly!] **SASE** for info. Merry Men Press, 274 Roanoke Ed, El Cajon, CA 92020, USA.

Orion Press (6/95)

ERIDANI 24 (TNG) 140 pages, \$13.75; **OUTPOST 3** (DS9) 180 pages, \$15.75; **GIVEN TIME** by Caroline Kummer (OT) - the Enterprise encounters time travellers from the future. 108 pages, \$12.00; **A DIFFICULT CONCEPT**, a collection of cartoons, 22 pages, \$4.50; **INVOLUTION 7** (TNG), 180 pges, \$15.75; **IDYLLS 12** (TNG) 174 pages, \$15.50; **DELTA QUADRANT** (Voyager) (Marge Robles, PO Box 491144, Ft Lauderdale, FL 33349-1144, USA) and **INTERLUDES** (CT stories about the crew before, during, between and after their missions) (Ann Zewen, 11729 Fairway Drive, Irvington, AL 36544, USA) both due later this year and are soliciting submissions. Prices include US postage

Gloria Fry (4/95)

New: **SHADOWS OF THE MIRROR** - (A mirror universe crossover novel taking place immediately after the events of 'Mirror Mirror.') Federation - Concern mounts as the region of space around Halka shows signs of instability, and members of the landing party have difficulties in coming to terms with their experiences in the Mirror universe. Empire - Kirk, after a purge against all who

oppose him, is unable to resist an opportunity for vengeance on his and Spock's counterparts. He embarks on actions which alter the course of the Empire and his relationship with his First Officer forever. A4 format. 124 pages. Price UK. £6.00 (incl P & P). Europe - £7 (or £5 + 5 IRC's). Sterling only. **SLAVEWORLD** - A Novel. On an alien planet where the humanoid population are subjugated by vulcanoids, Kirk is captured by slave-traders and sold to a brutal owner. Spock disguises himself as a member of the ruling class in an attempt to rescue his captain. **WARNING - ALTHOUGH THIS ZINE IS NOT EXPLICIT, IT CONTAINS ADULT THEMES. ONLY SUITABLE FOR READERS OVER 16.** 2nd printing. A4 Format. Price - U.K £5. Europe £5 + 3 IRC's. Sterling only.

Both 'zines illustrated by Maggie Symon and Raymond Sless Available from Gloria Fry, 16 Frankfort St. Glasgow G41 3XG Scotland. I have authorised Bill Hupe to sell my zines in the U.S.

SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM (4/95)

A bi-monthly Visual Media newsletter edited by Bjo Trimble. It is full of news and well worth having. Subscription Rates for 6 issues: USA \$10 Bulk mail, \$15 First Class. Make cheques/money orders payable to: Bjo Trimble. Bjo Trimble, P.O. Box 6858, Kingswood, TX 77325-6858 USA.

Foreign subscriptions: Contact the Subscription Agent nearest to you for local rates before writing to the U.S. address.

Canada: Star Trek Association of Regina, POB 36007, Regina, Sask, S4S 7H3 Canada.

United Kingdom £8/6 issues. Janet Ellicott, 43 Brooksbank House, Retreat Place, Morning Lane, Homerton, London E9 6RN.

Europe: Antje Freudenberg, Scharnebecker

Weg 5, 2126 Adendorf, Germany
Australia: Shayne McCormack 49 Orchard Road, Bass Hill, NSW 2197, Australia.
Orient: Masako Noguchi, 1-9-1 1006 Chikko Minato-ku, Osaka 552, Japan.

(4/95)

J.T. Press


HEROES' PLIGHT 1 & 2 - Multi Media - Hurt & Comfort Zines. Both contain Star Trek stories. SAE for further information to: J.T. Press, T. Evans, 113 Rush Green Road, Romford, Essex, RM7 0PU.

(6/95)

FICTION FILE - an all fiction based newsletter dedicated to classic and TNG Trek, Babylon 5, The X Files and Blakes 7. Presently available for an SAE only. (A5 preferred) For further information and a copy of Issue One write to Lindsey Shelton, 94 Parkes Street, Smethwick, Warley, W. Midlands B67 6BH.

TrekDistribution (6/95)

A TNG/DS9 Amiga disk-based zine with parodys to serious stories, poems and spec scripts as well as behind the scenes and background character information.

Disks 1 + 2 include over 20 fan produced stories such as Back to the Future and Quantum Leap crossovers and a strange story with a certain Wesley Crusher running Deep Space Nine... **Disks 3 + 4** include TNG/DS9 behind the scenes gossip, season lists as well as information on the main and supporting cast. Disks are £1.50 each or £5 for the 4, available from TrekDistribution, 57 Wentworth Avenue, Bournemouth, Dorset BH5 2EH. Please make cheques payable to Matthew Deegan. 

CONVENTIONS/ADVERTS/CLUBS/GROUPS



Conventions



FAN CONVENTION DIARY - a fan production funded by voluntary

contribution. It is completely independent of any fan group or organisation, and exists to provide details of conventions and similar events throughout the year. The diary lists both Star Trek and other media conventions. Send an SAE for a copy to Anne Page, 30 Fellowes Way, Broadway, Stevenage, Herts

SG2 8BW.

HORIZON CONVENTION June 17-18, 1995
Colston Hall, Bristol, England

Guests: Denise Crosby, Armin Shimerman
(Sunday only), Fred Bronson

SAE for info to Stargazer Productions
International, 22 Reindeer Court, City Centre,
Worcester WR1 2DS. England. Telephone:
0905 613005 or FAX: 0905 613158.

Or write: E-mail to horizin@caol.com

HORIZON CONVENTION June 24-5, 1995

Jurys Towers & Hotel, Dublin, Ireland

Guests: Denise Crosby, Armin Shimerman

SAE for info to Stargazer Productions
International, 22 Reindeer Court, City Centre,
Worcester WR1 2DS. England. Telephone:
0905 613005 or FAX: 0905 613158.

Or write: E-mail to horizin@caol.com

CONUNDRUM - The fifth Scottish Star Trek
Convention, 15 - 17th July 1995, Hospitality
Inn, Glasgow. Guests Majel Barrett-
Roddenberry, Carel Struycken, Richard
Arnold. Registration rates, adults £35,
children £18. Hotel rates available on
request. For registration form send to
Conundrum, PO Box 1598, Rutherglen,
Glasgow G73 4HR.

NEXUS Star Trek & Science Fiction
Convention. 11th - 15th August 1995. The
Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, Bristol.
Organised by Bristol Starfleet Registry and
the Bristol Astronomical Society.
Special Guest John de Lancie "Q". Other
guests: Chas Evans (UIP), Tim Gaskill (UK
Official ST club), Steve Parkinson (Bristol
Astronomical Society).

Full registration £35, other rates available.
Hotel rates: £40 single pppn, £30 Twin pppn.
For further info send an SAE to Nexus 95, 26
Milner Road, Horfield, Bristol BS7 9PQ.

LIGHTSPEED '95 1st-3rd September 1995.
The Hilton International Hotel, Leeds.
Charity R.N.L.I. Full Registration £35. SAE
for registration form to Lightspeed
Conventions, 16 Bramwell Street, Eastwood,
Rotherham, South Yorkshire S65 1RZ.

NE'A'DRIAR VII A Two-Day Star Trek
Convention. 2nd-3rd September, 1995. The

Shepperton Moat House Hotel, Felix Lane,
Shepperton, Middlesex. For details, please
send a SAE to: Joan Foxley, 143
Northumberland Road, North Harrow,
Middlesex HA2 7RB.

WOLF 359 - The Gathering in association
with Babylon 5 UK. 15th - 18th September
1995, Sachas, Manchester. Confirmed Guests:
Majel Barrett-Roddenberry, Michael O'Hare,
Sonni Cooper, George Marshall.
Registration: Full £35, Two day £25, Any One
Day £15.00, reduced rates for children. Room
rates pppn: Single £40, Twin/Double £30,
Triple £23.50. Charities: NSPCC/Great
Ormond Street Hospital. SAE for details to
Margo White, 37 Branksome Road, Southend-
on-Sea, Essex SS2 4HG.

IRECON 5 Ireland International Star Trek
Conference, 16th and 17th September 1995,
University College Galway Conference
Centre, with Guests: Award-Winning Writer
Peter David, Robert O'Reilly (Gowron), and
the return of the popular Fan Organiser
Shelley Jarvis. Luxury Student Accommodation
available on Campus. Charity: the Children
of Chernobyl. Send a SSAE or IRC to:
Mairéad King, c/o 4 Lisin, Tullyglass,
Shanno, Co. Clare, Republic of Ireland; Tel/
Fax: INT-353-61-472812; E-Mail: wise@iol.ie.

ASSIMILATION 18th-19th November 1995
Friendly Hotel, Milton Keynes. Registration
£17.50 until 1/7/95 then £20.00. Send large
SAE to Stuart Banks, 77 Holyrood Avenue,
South Harrow, Middlesex HA2 8UD.

STARBASE 96, February 2nd-4th 1996,
Hilton National Hotel in Leeds. Come join us
for your winter shore-leave. Guests to be
announced. Video rooms showing Original
Trek, TNG, DS9 and Voyager. An alternative
non-Trek programme will be screened. Other
activities will include: disco, fancy dress,
dealers room, auction and many
competitions. More activities still to be
announced. Registration is £40 for full
weekend. Other registration rates available
upon request. Hotel rates pppn. including
full English breakfast and VAT are: £29 twin/
double and £35 single. There are a limited
amount of single rooms - we can arrange
room shares. Send SAE for further info. &

registration forms to; Carol Looby, 162 Otley Road, Headingley, Leeds LS16 5JX.

WARP TWO The 41st British Star Trek Convention. 2nd to 6th May 1996, Cardiff International Arena. The weekend's events will be held in the many function rooms available in the arena. Amongst other items our programme will include: Guest Talks, Dealers, Auctions, Discussion Panels, Videos, Competitions, Theme Parties etc. etc. Registration £35 for full weekend. For queries send an email to me at 100531.2147@compuserve.com For a registration form send a stamped self addressed envelope to me at David Simons, Warp Two, 69, Merlin Crescent, Edgware, Middx, HA8 6JB, England.

OTHER EVENTS

G-FORCE 95. Saturday 8th July 1995. A one day get-together for Star Trek Fans at Alton Towers. NB: This is NOT a convention. Do not come expecting guest stars or too many organised events. The main attraction is the Alton Towers theme park plus the opportunity to meet fellow fans in a fun environment at a discount to the normal gate price. Tickets are only available in advance at £12.50 Adult, £10 Children from Shaun Brannigan, 7 Talbot Drive, Stapleford, Nottingham NG9 8HG, or send an SAE for details.

INTERSECTION The 53rd World Science Fiction Convention 24-28 Aug 1995. Scottish Exhibition Centre, Glasgow. Guests of Honour Gerry Anderson & Samuel R Delany. Events include 3 video programmes, a 16mm film programme, 6 programme streams featuring everything from serious SF to filk, roleplaying games, comics etc. There will be a media stream and a huge Dealers' Room. Write asking for details to Intersection, Admail 336, Glasgow G2 1BR.

AWAYTEAM '95 Yes, folks, we are doing it again. Next time will be in September 1995. Join us for a terrific Trek and Space Travel theme holiday, taking in a visit to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the Star Trek Adventure, Yosemite, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Paramount Studios, to name but

a few of the many exciting places we will be visiting. For further details, please contact Sadie Mason & Paul Anson, 63 Woodstock Ave, Bobbers Mill, Nottingham NG7 5QP. (Once again we want to point out that we have NO CONNECTION with the Glasgow Away Team.)

ACCELERATE 96 - The 3rd British Quantum Leap Convention: 12-14 April 1996, Radisson Edwardian Hotel, Heathrow. Full three-day programme of events, including guest speakers. Registration £35 for full weekend, other rates available. For information sheet and registration form, send SAE to: Accelerate 96, 78 Sterry Road, Dagenham, Essex RM10 8NT or telephone 01827 64911 for details.

CULT TV 27th - 30th October, 1995. Haven All-Action Centre, Ormesby Road, Caister-on-Sea, Great Yarmouth. Main Arena, Alternative Arena, 4 video rooms, Dealers' Hall, Self-Service Restaurant, Swimming Pool, Round the clock entertainment. Registration: £39. SAE for more info to Cult TV Productions, P.O. Box 1701, Peterborough, Cambs PE1 1EX.

THE FIFTEENTH LEONARD NIMOY CONVENTION: November 17th-19th, 1995, at the Stakis Victoria Hotel, Nottingham. A programme of films spanning the career of Leonard Nimoy and including many rarely, if ever, seen in Britain. Registration fee: £20. For form and full details, please send SAE to Carol Davies, 43 Lawrence Road, Hayes, Middlesex UB4 8QB.

PERSONAL COLUMN

I am a very keen fan of DS9 and would like to correspond with fans from anywhere, especially from Germany. Amanda Sinclair, 9 Laurel Manor, Devonshire Road, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5EJ.

20 year old trekker looking for penpals from home and overseas. I'm quite new to the Star Trek phenomenon and would be interested in swapping views with other trekkers. I am a particular fan of TNG and am looking forward to seeing some Voyager. I will try to reply to all letters. Please write to Elizabeth

Andrews, 65 South Drive, Chorlton, Manchester M21 8DZ.

SWF, 24 addicted to TNG would like to correspond with similar minded people from anywhere in the country or overseas. I will try and reply to all letters. Contact Helen Gray, 74 Beech Hill Lane, Wigan, Lancs WN6 7SB.

Pen pals wanted from around the world, interested in all sci fi, willing to share/exchange tapes etc. Personal favourites, TNG, X files on TV, Asimov to Tolkein to read. Sylvia Benson, 108 Casino Avenue, Herne Hill, London SE24 9PL



SMALL ADS

Please note: All adverts are printed as a service to members and IDIC cannot accept any liability. Adverts should be a maximum of 10 lines - will be printed in one newsletter only.

Please only offer original items for sale - adverts will be edited if necessary. We will not knowingly print adverts for copied material which breaks copyright.

FOR SALE OR SWAP - TNG customizable game cards, common, uncommon + rare. Also 1 Star Trek TNG game for Super Nes, excellent graphics + realistic sound, not available in UK. Telephone Arline on 01292 267259.

FOR SALE - Star Trek game card Black or White Trading card sets TMP, TVH, 25th Ann. I+II, Master Series I+II, NG Season I+II, DS9, Inaugural, Generations. Single cards available. Generations sky motion card. Many novels all in excellent condition. Send SAE to Geoffrey A. Shaw, 32 Allanson Road, Northenden, Manchester M22 4HW or 0161 998 0213 after 6.00pm.

FOR SALE - Franklin Mint pewter models:

USS Enterprise 1701; USS Enterprise 1701-D; Stargazer NCC 2893; Ferengi Marauder; Klingon Cruiser; Romulan Bird of Prey; Klingon Cruiser (ST:TNG); Romulan Warbird (ST:TNG); Enterprise/Klingon/Romulan set. £165 (inc P&P) each. Many other Star Trek items for sale; please write with SAE to Graham Probert, 38 Abertillery Rd, Blaina, Gwent, South Wales, UK, NP3 3DW.

FOR SALE - I am selling some Star Trek items for a friend. These include fanzines (UK & US), novels, books and some other items. SAE for list to Janet Quarton, 15 Letter Daill, Cairnbaan, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8SX.

FOR SALE - Complete set of CIC Star Trek videos - original series 1 - 79 (40 videos); films 1 - 6; The Cage (all colour Collectors' Edition) - 47 videos in total, mint condition, rarely played. Selling due to lack of space. £235 + £10 for recorded delivery and packaging. Originally cost £460+. Christine Jones, The Bungalow, Leeholme Recreation Ground, Leeholme, Bishop Auckland, County Durham DL14 8HN.

FOR SALE - Franklin Mint pewter replica of Enterprise NCC 1701, cost new £195, offers around £150. Mike Hazlewood, 1 Twyn-Bedw, Porth, Rhondda, CF39 9HR.

FOR SALE - ST Classic books and zines. Reasonable prices. SAE to Ruth Borgars, 130 High Oak Road, Ware, Herts SG12 7NY.

FOR SALE OR SWAP - Star Trek Next Generation customizable game cards 30p each. Send SAE for list of cards available and cards want to swap. Miss J Beswick, 116 Fieldton Road, West Derby, Liverpool L11 9AQ.

FOR SALE OR SWAP - Generations T/C, customizable cards white + ltd, 25th Anniv, STTNG season 2. Send SAE to Nancy Wilson, 97 Stamfordham Drive, Springwood, Liverpool L19 4XD.

FOR SALE OR SWAP - Customizable cards (both black & white border). Send SAE with lists to: S.A. Taylor, 11 Brickendon Lane, Brickendon, Nr. Hertford, Herts. SG13 8NU.

FOR SALE - Trading card singles of the following sets : ST Generations, TNG Inaugural, TNG episode collection series 1+2, 25th anniversary series 1+2, DS9, Masterpieces. Also available TNG Panini stickers, some sets and TNG customizable card game (white and black borders). Will sell or swap. Please send SAE to: Alexis Stokes, 26 Becketts, Hertford, Herts SG14 2AN.

FOR SALE - Starlog/Cinescape etc issues for sale, send wants list and SAE to: A Ali, 14 Champion Grove, London SE5 8BW.

FOR SALE - Attention Amiga owners, I have over 50 discs of ST goodies from Demos, anim., music, slideshows ect. Just send a SAE for lists to: Mr M. Payne, 5 Bassett Road, Coundon, Coventry, W. Midlands CV6 1LF.

FOR SALE - (Genesis) ST:TNG - Echoes from the Past Megadrive game + adaptor. Cost for both £70, for sale for both £35. Mr David Hird, 5 Sides Road, Carleton Park, Pontefract, W Yorkshire WF8 3PN.

HELP! - Does anyone know if there is a catalogue or stock list available for the Trek postcards from Classico San Francisco? Has anyone ever seen postcards of the semi-regular characters e.g. Ro, Barclay, Lwaxana? Anybody willing to sell/swap them? Please call Neil on (01772) 854609 (Office) or 884313 (Home).

WANTED - Starlog No. 138, ST:TNG DC Comics Shadowheart No 1, 2 & 3 and Customizable Cards (Klingon related cards), limited or unlimited edition. Buy or swap. Can you help? Please contact: Stacey Bailey, 22A Duck Lane, Haddenham, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB6 3UE.

WANTED - Star Trek software (games, screensavers etc. - not pictures) for IBM compatibles - DOS or Windows. Please contact Janet Quarton, 15 Letter Daill, Cairnbaan, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8SX.

WANTED - The second series/season of Dr Finlay on video for a loan. I will pay postage and you will get them back - assuredly. Please write to Emer Twomey, 3 Power's

Square, Christchurch, Dublin 8, Rep of Ireland.

WANTED - any information on how I can get hold of either the Bohemian Rhapsody video or the Meatloaf - Anything for ?ove video. Any reasonable price paid. Mike Hazlewood, 1 Twyn-Bedw, Porth, Rhondda, CF39 9HR

WANTED DESPERATELY - Photos of the Generations con. Mine are awful!! Also if anyone has a voice recording or video of the con I will pay handsomely. Even up to three bars of gold pressed latinum!! Or would swap for a new copy of 'Star Trek Creator' David Alexanders biography of Gene. Lindsay Wright, 179 Cambridge Road, Churchtown, Southport, Merseyside PR9 7LR

WANTED - Copies of the 'Involution' series of zines or any other Picard orientated zines to buy or, if you don't want to sell, to borrow - I promise you will get them back. Also: any close up photos of Patrick from the Generation Convention; the board game 'The Fury of Dracul'. Maria Joannou, 4 Minter Avenue, Droitwich, Worcs. WR9 8RP.

WANTED - Can anyone tell me where I can get hold of a T J Hooker reference book? I need to find out what the episode titles are, and what seasons they belong to. I've been told there were 88 episodes in all, which originally ran from 1982 to 1986 respectively. Any help with the above appreciated. Please write to Chris C Bailey, "T J Hooker", 7 Balliol Drive, Didcot, Oxon OX11 9RH.

WANTED - Does anyone have for sale or loan a copy of the zine Involution 6 (will pay postage). Please contact Michelle Chambers, 5 Woodland Avenue, Quarry Bank, West Midlands DY5 1EH.

WANTED TO BUY - Any books, tapes, magazines, or zines relating to the Gerry & Sylvia Anderson show, UFO. Items needed for research for a zine story (as well as collecting). Write to: Alistair Craig, Box 5305 - Station B, Victoria, British Columbia, V8R 6N4 Canada.

STILL WANTED - Any not too expensive copies of Interphase (all issues). Many

thanks to those who replied to my previous as which enabled me to acquire issues of Nexus and Variations. Ruth Borgars, 130 High Oak Road, Ware, Herts SG12 7NY.

WANTED - Photos of W Shatner at the opening of Generations at Leicester Square. I'll gladly pay for any inconvenience. Gratiennne Vandekerkhove, 78 Oostmeersdreef, 9800 Deinze, Belgium.

WANTED Copy of Star Trek V, must be in very good condition, also wanted Disney film The Little Mermaid (the film, not the episodes). I will pay a good price or swap for TNG episodes. Lynne Baxter, 29 North Street Caversham, Reading RG4 8JA.

WANTED - Star Trek Photonovel #10 (Day of the Dove) - I pay any reasonable price. Any newspaper/magazine articles of the Generations Convention (perhaps in exchange of some good pictures we took of most of the actors at The Royal Albert Hall?). Xerox copies will be fine, but I would prefer the originals.) Martin Stahl, Ulrich Willer Str. 8, D-97828 Marktheidenfeld, Germany.

BUSINESS SMALL ADS

THE OFFICIAL STAR TREK FAN CLUB OF THE UK, PO Box 355, Bushey, Watford WD2 2NA. £14.99 for 4 magazines. Tel No. 01923-818495. Fax for membership information is: 01923-225885. People can write to Tim Gaskill direct via e-mail TGASKILL@delphi.com or post PO BOX 6463, London, N22 4JU or fax 0181-888-8008.

Volumes I & II of Starfleet Guides are now available. Vol I is the Starfleet Academy Student Handbook, the only complete guide to the Academy. It includes curriculum, course descriptions, campus layouts, and more! Vol II is the GALILEO-class Starcruiser Ship's Organization and Regulations Manual: development history, construction timeline and details, Red Alert assignment for every member of the crew, and diagrams of Bridge consoles & other important areas of the ship. For more info write: PMAI, POB 44395, Rio Rancho, NM 87174-4395 USA, or e-mail Pmai@aol.com

MISC

Fans wanted to contact us with Information or interests on Autism, Computers or the Bahá'í Faith as well as Star Trek for specialised work-groups.

AUTINET Project in Association with the Irish Society for Autism, an AUTISM Support Group requires High Functional fans to help develop an Internet Service with information and interests, especially Star Trek. Star Trek is the main Obsessional Interest of the High Functional Autistic Conditions, such as Aspergers Syndrome. Send a SSAE or IRC to: Federation Europe Society Ltd, C/o 4 Lisin, Tullyglass, Shannon, Co. Clare, Republic of Ireland; Tel/Fax: INT-353-61-472812; E-Mail: wise@iol.ie.



CLUBS & GROUPS



UPDATE

We have available a set of information sheets giving the addresses and brief details of all the British Star Trek clubs and local groups we know about, plus Star Trek related actor clubs in the UK and abroad. If you would like a copy write and ask Janet; enclose at least a 9" x 6" SAE plus an extra loose 25p stamp. (Note: new members receive a copy of this when they join IDIC, although we update it with the following info from each newsletter.)

Please enclose a SASE when writing to clubs for information.

The Patrick Stewart Appreciation Society PSAS Now sanctioned by Patrick Stewart as his official fan club, this UK-based society is for those interested in Mr Stewart's past career and in following his future work. Individual and family memberships, 4 newsletters per year. SAE for information/application form to 38 Ashbourne Grove, Halifax, West Yorks HX1 4JU. E-mail enquiries may be made to 100027.151@compuserve.com

Join **NOW VOYAGER**, the officially

sanctioned Kate Mulgrew fan club! Perks include bimonthly newsletter, photos, electronic updates for those with on-line access, and more as soon as we get details ironed out with her publicist. We have a web page and will soon have anonymous ftp of GIFs and FAQs as well. Our web page (yes we have Janeway photos) is at:

<http://umbc8.umbc.edu/~mpantil/kate/kate.html>

Dues are \$5 US to receive the newsletter electronically, \$12 US for the printed version (\$15 Canada/Mexico, \$20 overseas).

E-mail: Michelle Green and Paul Anderson at tigger@cais.com or Thepooh@aol.com

Snail Mail: Send a Self Address Stamped Envelope to: Now Voyager, c/o Michelle Green and Paul Anderson, 15613 Ambiance Drive, North Potomac MD 20878, United States of America.

KAFERIAN APPLE CLUB - A new club formed by Mike Sadler & Neil Safi for fans of Star Trek's most famous fruit. It's completely mad! Free newsletter, sticker and Kaferian apple rank pips (subject to availability). There is a ranking system, although anyone who joins is instantly promoted to Captain. Club membership is free (so don't expect too much from it!) See our flyers or contact either of us at SOLIII, Lightspeed or Wolf 359 for more information. Remember apple fans - keep 'em peeled - the fruit is out there...

DAILY PLANET - The Club for fans of Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman. Quarterly news-zines featuring interviews, cast bios, US episode updates/guides/reviews, Mailroom and more. For more details, send SAE or IRC to: Daily Planet, 14 Champion Grove, London SE5 8BW.

LOCAL GROUPS - Update

Most of these groups have monthly meetings. Please enclose an SAE when writing to them for details.

Airdrie - USS Renegade, PO Box 5425, Airdrie ML6 9BW. Forthcoming events: **Warp Nine Mini Convention** Sunday 28th May, Tudor Hotel, Alexander Street, Airdrie. 10am - 10pm, doors open 9.30am. Adults £5, children 5-14 £3. Latest DS9, Voyager

episodes plus the best of all the series; hear the latest news; meet other fans; ST merchandise available in dealers room; food available all day. SAE for further info to USS Renegade.

The Great Shuttlecraft Race (charity Ten Pin Bowling Event). Sunday June 11th, 1995 at Powerdrome Bowl, Lock Street, Coatbridge. 11.30am - 4.30pm. Adults £3.50, Children £2 (2 games plus shoe hire)

All proceeds from both events go to the chosen charities of USS Renegade and Conundrum 95.

Edinburgh - Starbase East Coast. We meet 10am to 10pm, at the Carlton Highland Hotel, North Bridge, Edinburgh for twelve hours of non stop Star Trek - Voyager, 3rd season DS9 and favourite episodes of TNG and Classic. Admission: £4 adults, £3 under 15s who must be accompanied by an adult. All profits to the Conundrum charity. Next meetings 28th May, 9th July. Enquiries - SAE to Starbase East Coast, c/o Greg Lamb, 195/2 Great Junction Street, Edinburgh EH6 5LQ.

Glasgow - The Away Team: Contagion (Away Team), PO Box 867, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 4HR. Hospitality Inn 10.00am to 10.00pm, £6, (£4 under 14s). Next meeting 18th June.

Liverpool - FEK'LHR of Liverpool ST club - regular meetings the first Sunday of each month at Rigby's, Dale Street, Liverpool, 1pm - 6pm. Episodes, videos, quizzes etc.

Manchester Starfleet - PO Box 35, Levenshulme, Manchester M19 3GZ.

E-Mail: cymonh@jumper.mcc.ac.uk

Northampton Star Trek Group. Regular Sunday evening meetings; large screen satellite TV; licensed bar. For details phone Mike on 01327 79290 or Dave on 01327 843048.

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The opinions stated in this newsletter are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of the committee.

Send to:-

Janet - Subscriptions, renewals, all newsletter submissions on disc; all news, cuttings, adverts, merchandise info etc. for the newsletter; used stamps for the Guide Dogs.

Sheila - All Zine orders; postbag, articles & reviews for the newsletter; TNG submissions for zines (stories, poetry and artwork); used stamps.

Valerie - Classic Trek submissions for zines (stories, poetry and artwork).

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Dues UK £8.00, USA/Middle East Air \$24.00 (£14.00), Australia £15.00, Europe £10.00.

DATA PROTECTION ACT

This is a statutory notice as prescribed by the above Act. In accordance with the conditions governing the maintenance of machine-readable records by non-incorporated members' clubs, IDIC must advise that the names and addresses of every member are held in a computer-readable format in order to more efficiently prepare and despatch newsletters. The information is used for this purpose only, and will not be disclosed to any other party whatsoever without the specific consent of the Data Subject (i.e. the member concerned). You should also be aware that you have a statutory right for your name to be deleted from the computer record and for your newsletters to be addressed manually.

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